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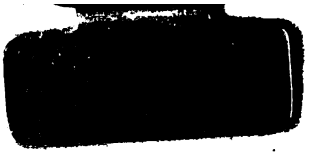

THE

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THE

MEDICAL BRIEF.

FOR 1876.

J. J. LAWRENCE, M. D. - - - - Editor and Proprietor.

SAINT LOUIS, MO.

A SOLUTION OF SALICYLIC ACID.

BY F. ALFRED REICHARDT.

The most concentrated solution of salicylic acid has been, up to the present, obtained by using borax, phosphate of soda and phosphate of ammonia; but as these will only dissolve about one-third of their weight, in about seventeen times their bulk of water, we only obtain solution of ten grains to the ounce.

After repeated experiments, I have found that thirty grains of salicylic acid, with one drachm of saturate of ammonia, and water enough to make one fluid ounce, will give a clear solution. This is, I believe, the strongest solution of free salicylic acid known, and the solvent used has never been mentioned in any journals here or in Europe.

In preparations where salicylic acid is intended for external use, a German writer reports that a solution of it, in sulphite of soda, is of the greatest benefit. The anti-septic properties of the salicylic acid are much enhanced by this addition; and it is stated that the application is not painful to wounds or excreted surfaces. The formula is as follows:

Salicylic acid	10 grains.
Sulphite of soda	30 grains.
Water	1 fl. oz.

It has, to my knowledge, been used with great benefit in several cases of eczema.

SYRUP OF ASSAFŒTIDA.

An eligible syrup of assafœtida, that would not be unpleasant to the patient, and also keep a reasonable length of time without change, has long been a desideratum among physicians and pharmacists. Many formulas have been published, but none seems to have met with general favor; and some produced so unstable a preparation as to render them altogether worthless. In experimenting toward these difficulties, the admirable solvent properties of glycerine, and its slight medicinal activity, commend it as a suitable medium, and the results prove that a very desirable and not unhandsome preparation may be obtained, that meets all the above requirements, and is also very conveniently prepared, without that method of continued rubbing so generally employed:

R.	Assafœtida, select	256 grains.
	Glycerine	2 fl. ounces.
	Alcohol, 95 per cent	3 fl. drachms.
	Oil of gaultheria	15 drops.
	Oil of cinnamon	5 drops.
	Oil of bitter-almonds	1 drop.

Dissolve the assafœtida in the glycerine, by the aid of a gentle heat, and strain if necessary; dissolve the essential oils in the alcohol, and add to the above; after which add simple syrup sufficient to make the whole measure one pint, and incorporate thoroughly: each fluid drachm will represent two grains of the gum-resin.

A sample, which I made two years ago, does not seem to have deteriorated in the least, and is, I think, as palatable as any syrup of assafœtida can be rendered of such strength.—[J. W. Wood, in the *Journal of Pharmacy*.

REMOVAL OF NITRATE OF SILVER STAINS.

A few grains of metallic iodine are placed in a vessel, and a few drops of ammonia added. The solution is then applied by a brush, or the finger, to the stains, which rapidly disappear. The caution is given that the mixture is to be destroyed after using, lest an explosive compound result on drying.

TINCTURE OF IRON IN RHEUMATISM.

Dr. J. Russell Reynolds, Professor of Medicine in University College, London, urges this treatment. He says, in a recent lecture: I wish to lay before you some further results of that mode of dealing with the disease in question. You will allow me to remind you that the possibility of relieving acute rheumatism by the tincture of perchloride of iron was suggested to my mind by observing the rapid arrest of certain other "spreading" inflammations, such as erysipelas, diphtheroid and hepatic sore throats, by the administration of this drug; and that I stated at the time, and wish now to repeat the statement, that, in my judgment, the cases that I could then bring before you, and which I can now submit to your consideration, are not sufficiently numerous to establish a therapeutic position; but they are, so far as I can see, sufficiently significant to warrant further trial of a mode of treatment which is certainly better than that which Warren said was all that he knew of that was good for Rheumatism, viz: six weeks.

In the front of this paper, I wish to state that very many cases that have been under my care, both in hospital and in private practice, but of which I have no sufficient notes, have left upon my mind the strong conviction that those which I am able to bring before you underrate, rather than overrate, the value of the mode of treatment that I have suggested. This, I am convinced, is the case, especially with regard to the time of the relief afforded to spontaneous pain.

The treatment has been generally the administration of the tincture of perchloride of iron, in doses varying from fifteen minims to a drachm, every four hours, with or without twenty or thirty minims of glycerine and spirits of chloroform. No patient has complained of any discomfort of any kind, which could be referred to the medicine.

He continued quoting a number of cases, illustrative of the benefits of this treatment.

LOTION FOR FETID FEET.

Permanganate of potash, fifteen parts; distilled water, one thousand parts. The feet to be washed twice a day with the lotion. They are then to be carefully dried, and powdered either with potato starch or lycopodium.

QUININE GARGLE IN SORE THROAT.

Dr. George Johnson gives the formula below as of excellent effect in sore throat, even severe diphtheric cases:

R. Quiniæ sulphatis.....18 grains.
Acidi sulphurici diluti.....42 drops.
Aquæ, ad..... 6 fluid ounces.

He adds: I have found the quinine solution useful as a wash, in apthæ, stomatatis, and other affections of the mouth; but my experience of it in these cases has been limited by the difficulty attending its use in childhood, owing to its very bitter taste.

MIXTURE FOR ACUTE ARTICULAR RHEUMATISM.

The alkaline treatment is one of the most generally adopted in the medical wards of Bellevue Hospital, New York. A prescription which has found great favor is as follows:

R. Sodæ bicarb.....1½ ounce.
Potass. acetat.....½ ounce.
Liq. ammon. acetat.....3 fluid ounces.
Aquæ, q. s. ad.....1 pint.
R. Acid citric.....2 ounces.
Aquæ.....1 pint.
2 ounces of each q. 3 vel 4 h.

This forms an agreeable effervescing mixture, rendering the urine alkaline very quickly. The frequency with which it is given depends upon the degree of alkalinity obtained as tested morning and evening.– [Dr. Farrington in *Philadelphia Medical Times.*

IPECAC IN DYSENTERY.

Dr. F. A. Ross says that it is a curious fact of medical history that though ipecac was first introduced to the profession as a remedy for dysentery, and was very extensively used in Europe and elsewhere for this purpose, yet from some cause or other it gradually fell into disuse in this connection; and now following a very long period of almost complete abandonment, we are again hearing of its employment frequently in this disease. He said that pills were undoubtedly the best way to administer the remedy, as less likely to induce nausea and vomiting, which would frustrate the plan of treatment.

GARGLE IN NURSING SORE MOUTH.

Dr. Mitchell proposes the following:

R. Chlorate potass.....	2	drachms.
Acid, hydrochlor.....	15	drops.
Creosoti.....	10	drops.
Alcohol.....	½	ounce.
Aqua bullient.....	10	ounces.

Sig.—Gargle several times daily.

SULPHUROUS ACID IN DIPHTHERIA.

Dr. Knight mentioned some cases under the charge of Dr. Bowen, of Philadelphia, which recovered after the inhalation of sulphurous acid, while other cases in the same family, not so treated, died.

SALICYLIC ACID IN CATARRH OF THE BLADDER WITH AMMONIACAL FERMENTATION OF THE URINE.

Paul Furbinger reports four cases of catarrh of the bladder, with ammoniacal fermentation of the urine, in which salicylic acid was given in daily doses of about fifteen grains. The alkaline reaction and the odor soon disappeared from the urine, as did the bacteria.

HEALTH and life are promoted and prolonged by what are called comforts; the comforts of good living, having plenty of the best food, prepared in the best manner. No man is benefited by exposures or hardships, for their tendency in all cases is to engender disease and shorten life.

A SOLUTION of five parts of borax in one hundred of water is represented to prevent the putrefactive process in meats for considerable time. Flesh dipped in the mixture and then dried, resists the usual process of decomposition.—[*The Sanitarian.*

NITRITE OF AMYL IN ASTHMA.

J. J. LEISER, M. D.

The following report of cases may be of interest:

Mrs. G., aged 40, for several months had her sleep interrupted regularly at 4 o'clock, A. M., and was compelled to sit up the remaining part of the night in agonizing efforts at breathing. Large doses of quinine had some influence over the paroxysms, and when fully under its influence she would escape one or more nights. It began finally to loose its influence, and I gave her the amyl. The first use of it seemed to fail, but only because she did not inhale freely enough of it. The second night it was administered until the prominent effects became apparent—fullness and flushing of the face, throbbing sensation of the temples, etc.—when she experienced immediate relief, and returned to sleep at once. After a short use of it her spells left entirely, but I attribute such results to the season.

Mr. M., aged 35, came into my office suffering from a severe attack of asthma. I gave him five drops of nitrite of amyl to inhale, with immediate relief. This patient was afflicted with severe paroxysms of asthma on every occasion of a slight cold; and it now requires that at such times he shall take several inhalations daily and at bedtime, by which he can shield himself effectually from distress. It is the only remedy which, after a search of years, has proven satisfactory. He uses five to ten drops.

Mrs. R., aged 60, simple paroxysmal asthma. She has become accustomed to the use of nitrite of amyl, and inhales it direct from the bottle—enough to cause some of the effects of the remedy, which always disperses the asthma and leaves her comfortable. She considers her bottle of amyl her dearest companion.

I have given the amyl salt in a number of cases, and in only one has it failed; in this, I think the patient did not use it effectually, as she was completely prejudiced in favor of an asthma specific, which usually relieved her.—[*Medical and Surgical Reporter.*

THAT the sooner an eye lost by accident, and in certain cases by disease, is removed, the better for the patient, is an opinion generally accepted by ophthalmotologists.

PRURITUS.

For the intolerable pruritus, common in fall and winter, many physicians use Dr. L. Duncan Bulkley's prescription, given in the *Transactions* of the American Medical Association, viz:

Unguentum Anti-pruriticum.

R. Pulv. gum camphor,
Chloral hydrat, } Of each one drachm.

Grind well together in a mortar, till they form a fluid, and add slowly, simple cerate, one ounce.

Apply to the part affected; *but not to be used if the skin is at all broken.*

BROMIDE POTASSIUM IN HEMORRHAGE, ETC.

The employment of bromide of potassium in cases of epistaxis, uterine hemorrhage, and coryza is recommended by Dr. Geneuil in *L'Union Medicale.* He reports the case of a man in whom violent epistaxis had continued for six hours uncontrolled by styptics, when finally a saturated solution containing six grammes of the bromide of potassium was injected into the nose by means of a glass syringe; the hemorrhage was promptly arrested. Another case of a woman afflicted in the same way was speedily relieved by an injection of the same remedy twice. It is recommended that the bromide should also be given internally to prevent a recurrence of the hemorrhage. The power of promptly arresting the epistaxis is not due to the coldness of the solution of the salt, but to the contraction brought about in the blood-vessels, and the consequent diminution of the flow of blood to the head. In cases of epistaxis, if the first injection should fail to accomplish its purpose, three or four injections may be given in succession. For uterine hemorrhages of moderate intensity, bromide of potassium given internally, and associated with the *pulvis ferri* in cases of anæmia, is recommended. The writer in his own person tested the value of the bromide in coryza. Two injections of a saturated solution, given with half an hour's interval, brought rapid relief, and six hours later effected á permanent cure. The application is rather painful for a little time, but a sensation of relief soon follows.

DIPHTHERIA

Has two prominent characteristics. a very bad breath and great bodily debility or prostration, with some discomfort about the throat, and whitish patches, all caused by want of cleanliness, of good ventilation, by dampness and by colds. There is no sufficient reason to believe that it is catching by ordinary association in the same room, except so far as the same surroundings which occasioned the disease in the patient would cause it in another person exposed to like influences, unless the other person were in vigorous health, and able to repel the tendency to the malady. The acid tannate of iron, applied to the diseased parts inside the mouth and palate with a brush, is believed to be the best astringent remedy known up to this time; but if the substance is not readily had, the diseased part may be painted with a brush dipped in muriated tincture of iron, and then, in five minutes or less, a strong solution of tannin may be applied. In a few hours the discolored appearance will show the extent of the disease, and separation will go on rapidly, if the system is sustained by nourishing food.—[*Hall's Journal of Health.*

THE following cough-mixture, much used by a very successful practitioner, will be found to be excellent:

Fluid ext. lycopi,	} Of each one ounce.
" " inulæ,	
" " cimicifugæ,	
" " lobeliæ,	3 drachms.
Morphiæ sulph	2 grains.
Spts. anisi	2 drachms.
Syrup	ad 8 ounces.

A dessertspoonful is an average dose of this, repeated every three hours, or oftener, if necessary.

OPEN FIRE.

Every one feels and knows that an open, cheerful, blazing fire on the hearth, whether of wood or coke or coal, imparts a life to a family circle of a cold winter night which nothing else can; while all the scientific men admit, most unhesitatingly, that for effectual ventilation and healthfulness no mode of heating an apartment can compare with an open fire.

WARMING HOUSES.

To warm a house healthfully there must be a constant change of air—pure air coming in, foul air going out. This is what is meant by draught or ventilation. A large amount of pure out-door air will come in at the joinings of the doors and windows; and if there is an open fireplace, or an ordinary grate with fire, the out-door air, being heavier and stronger than that in-doors, drives it up the chimney—displaces it.

A few years ago an English family, of parents and six children, all occupying a single room, were, one by one, taken ill. Medical skill was unavailing, and several of the members died. Being winter time a very small fire was kept up, but every crevice in the cottage was carefully stuffed with such materials as might be found in such a household. The physician in attendance had frequently directed an airing of the apartment, but the inclemency of the weather, and the danger of draughts upon the sick, was constantly interposed as an objection. All medicine seemed to fail of its ordinary good effects, and the sick failed to improve. At this juncture a window glass was accidentally broken out, and there being in that out-of-the-way poor place no ready means of repair, the "air-hole" remained unaltered, resulting in an immediate improvement of the sick, and final restoration. No death occurred after the breaking of the window-pane.

ABORTIVE TREATMENT OF CORYZA.

Dr. Prout, of Brooklyn (*Medical Record*), recommends the tincture ferri chlor., in large doses, as a valuable remedy in the early stages of coryza. As soon as possible after one is seized with the cold in the head, give half a drachm of the tincture, in glycerine and water. In half an hour the symptoms are readily ameliorated, and it may not be necessary to repeat the medicine. But if the improvement be but temporary, the dose must be repeated. It may be necessary to give two or three doses. Dr. Prout does not claim that the treatment is always successful, but mostly so, when instituted as speedily as possible after the attack. No unpleasant effect follows, except a slight and transient feeling of discomfort in the bowels. There is a slight diuretic action.

GELSEMINUM IN COUGH.

Gelseminum as a remedy for cough is advocated by Dr. J. R. Thompson in the *British Medical Journal.* He has administered it recently to a large number of patients suffering from pulmonary disease (as, for example, chronic phthisis) as a cough sedative. The tincture is given in five-minim doses. When much bronchial irritation existed he has combined it with bromide of ammonium, tincture of squills, and syrup of codeia. He claims that his results show that gelseminum has a marked power in subduing cough; that it acts probably as a nervous sedative; that it is useful when other sedatives have failed; that it seldom produces any unpleasant general effect, and that the kinds of cough in which it may be administered with advantage are very varied.

BALSAM OF HONEY—COSMETIC.

Pale honey	3 ounces.
Glycerine	1 ounce.
Alcohol	1 ounce.
Essence of ambergris	6 drops.
Citric acid	3 drachms.

This is intended to remove discolorations and freckles as well as so improve the general appearance of the skin.

A POWDER FOR THE TREATMENT OF CORYZA.

Van der Corput (*Le Progress Med.*) recommends that the following powder be employed once or twice daily in cases of obstinate coryza:

Subnitrate of bismuth	2 drachms.
Powdered benzoin	1 drachm.
Muriate of morphia	1 ½ grain.

Mix and make two powders.

INHALATION OF IPECACUANHA.

Dr. Murrell, in *La France Medicale*, advises the inhalation of ipecacuanha in the treatment of bronchitis when there is dyspnœa. He claims that its use in this way in winter-cough has been remarkably successful. He employs the wine, usually with from one to two parts of water, and administers daily from half a drachm to a drachm of the preparation.

NOTE ON A SOLUTION OF IODOFORM.

BY LOUIS ELSBERG, M. D.

A great objection to the employment of iodoform in substance is its bad odor, which is very penetrating and persistent; furthermore, there has not hitherto been in use any effective solution for topical applications in cases where ointments are inapplicable. It will doubtless be of interest to all who know the medicinal value of iodoform to learn that both these objections have been overcome. I have found an ethereal solution which deodorizes iodoform, the solution smelling of ether only, and at the same time constitutes an effective topical remedy for diseased mucous membranes, as of the throat, nose, mouth, larynx, vagina, rectum, etc.

The conclusions drawn by authors from their experiments, are:

1. To employ iodoform in the crystalline state.
2. To make the solution in a *red* glass flask, by simple agitation.
3. To use the following proportions:

Crystallized iodoform	1 gramme.
Ether (60° Baume)	4 grammes.

I had a solution prepared with Squibb's ether, and find that it possesses all the advantages of iodoform in powder for local applications, without its disadvantages. The smarting which the ether may be expected to produce upon the mucous membrane is momentary only, so that the application becomes really painless. Its beneficial effects surpass my expectations.—[*Medical Times.*

TINCTURE OF KINO THAT WILL NOT GELATINIZE.

Kino in fine powder	1½ ounce.
Alcohol	8 fluid ounces.
Water	4 fluid ounces.
Glycerine	4 fluid ounces.

Mix the alcohol, water, and glycerine together, and, having mixed the kino with an equal bulk of sand, introduce it into a glass percolator, and exhaust it with the menstruum in the usual manner.

SALICYLIC ACID IN DIPHTHERIA.

Dr. Frontheim has tested the efficiency of salicylic acid in thirty-one cases of diphtheria, none of which died, and in none of which were there any renal complications. In only one case was there paralysis of the soft palate. Those patients who were most seriously attacked were cured in about eight days; the others in two, three, and four days. In the more serious cases, he touched the diphtheritic patches every three or four hours with a sponge fastened on the end of a whalebone, and dipped in a solution of salicylic acid. After each of these applications he also administered internally a teaspoonful of the same solution, which consisted of—

Salicylic acid	30 grains.
Water	5 drachms.
Alcohol	Sufficient.

He found that the salicylic acid appeared very rapidly in the urine, and gave a bluish-violet reaction with the chloride of iron.

BROMIDE OF LITHIUM.

The *Revue de Therapeutique* gives the following as the result of Dr. Rouband's test of this drug:

1. Bromide of lithium is a drug which has a twofold action.

2. It possesses in a high degree the lithontriptic qualities which are universally recognized in the salts of lithia.

3. It affects reflex sensibility in a more energetic manner than the other bromides, without the unpleasant effects on the heart which the bromide of potassium has.

4. Consequently, it takes its place in the first rank of antilithic and sedative drugs, and its action is especially valuable in cases of the uric acid diathesis, which are accompanied by painful phenomena.

OFFENSIVE DISCHARGES FROM CANCER, ETC.

To counteract these, washing the parts with a weak solution of sulphurous acid, bathing them with terebene, and with a solution of chloral (one drachm to four ounces), have been recommended.

COLOGNE WATER.

The following produces a delicious cologne; in fact, if made from good oils—not every day obtained—it is super-excellent:

Oil of bergamot	1	ounce.
Oil of cinnamon, true	2	drachms.
Oil of lemon	1	ounce.
Oil of citron (citrus medica)	1	ounce.
Oil of lavender	4	drachms.
Oil of orange-flowers	4	"
Oil of rosemary	4	"
Alcohol, at 90 deg	1	gallon.
Spts. of rosemary	3	oz. and 5 drachms.
Comp. spirits of balm (melissa officinalis)	13	ounces.
Ext. of ylang-ylang	3	ounces.

Mix altogether except the ylang-ylang, let it stand for eight days, distill off 138 ounces, and add the extract of ylang-ylang.—[C. G. Polk, in *Druggists' Circular.*

Mr. Edward Lund, of London, in a late lecture, says: "Surgeons forget, or perhaps they have never seriously thought of the fact, that the anti-septics which we employ, at least those now generally in use, are valueless to arrest putrefaction when once it has commenced. If the term so employed, and which is in every one's mouth, 'anti-septic' (against septicity, against putrefaction), could have been written *ante*, and read *ante-septic* (before septicity, in the order of time), and if this simple principle could have been thoroughly inculcated into the professional mind, it would have been of immense value, and would have taught us the necessity of beginning our efforts to prevent putridity at the very earliest moment after the air could touch some divided structure of the body with which nature never intended it to come into direct contact; and if this idea was generally and systematically recognized, an immense advance would be made towards a more cordial reception of the leading principles of our practice in this mode of treating wounds."

DENTAL NEURALGIA.

Dr. J. Sawyer says, in *The Practitioner:* "I have rarely found gelseminum fail to give decided and lasting relief in cases of neuralgic pains in the face and jaws, associated with carious teeth. I have usually given fifteen minims of the tincture ever y six hours."

SUPPURATION OF THE MIDDLE EAR (OTORRHŒA) TREATMENT WITH ALCOHOL.

M. W., colored cook, æt. fifty years, Atlanta. The patient has a constant fœtid discharge from the right ear, which has existed for several years. Upon examination, we find the discharge comes from the middle ear and empties itself through an opening in membrana tympani. These chronic otorrhœas are very stubborn, but succumb usually to the proper treatment constantly kept up. I bring this case before you to demonstrate the efficacy of the alcohol treatment, which acts in many cases most surprisingly. Before applying it, the ear must be thoroughly cleansed by syringing with milk-warm salt water, and afterwards dried as nearly as possible. This latter is important, else oftentimes a sufficiency of water is left behind to dilute the medicine too much. If you have reason to suppose that this will not be properly carried out, it will be better to use a moistened camel's hair-pencil, and swab out the ear, and thus cleanse it of matter. After this is done, fill the ear with the pure undiluted alcohol, and let it remain in for five or ten minutes. The first effect of it is a sharp, burning feeling, *which is only momentary*, and then a very pleasantly warm sensation follows. At the end of five or ten minutes, turn the head to one side to empty the fluid, and dry the ear, and put in a piece of cotton. Make this application twice daily, but keep the ear cleansed oftener, if necessary, according to the copiousness of the discharge.

I have known otorrhœas, existing for many years, cured in comparatively a short time by this treatment, and can recommend it strongly to you for trial. There are cases, of course, where other remedies must be resorted to, or where they should be used alternately with the alcohol. In cases of polypus, or diseased bone, of course, this is not applicable.—[Dr. A. W. Calhoun in *Atlanta Medical and Surgical Journal.*

ATONY OF THE INTESTINAL TRACT.

Dr. T. McSherry has found the following prescription give signal relief, in cases of torpor of the large and small intestines:

Fl. ext. secal. cornut	7 drachms.
Acid phosphor. dilut	1 drachm.

Teaspoonful three times a day. The phosphoric acid heightens the effect of the ergot.

WITCH HAZEL.

Passive congestion depends upon venous capillary debility. The vital energy is not sufficient to send the current onward, and stagnation in these venous springs is the consequence. Witch hazel, by giving tone to these vessels, is in such cases of inestimable value. Passive hemorrhages often yield under its use; hemorrhoids and varicose veins are benefited by it; the night-sweats of phthisis are checked. In one case of chronic engorgement of the uterus, I obtained the best possible results from its internal administration. Like bayberry, it often requires the use of cathartics to overcome the constipation it induces. I found it decidedly superior to buchu, uva ursi, pareira brava, and epigia repens in an obstinate case of cystorrhœa. I have seen much benefit accrue from the following formula in the diarrhœa of phthisis:

Fluid ext. hammamelis	1 ounce.
Fluid ext. myricæ ceriferæ	1 ounce.
Fluid ext. lycopi virgin	1 ounce.
Syrup pruni virgin	5 ounces.

M. Sig.—Dessertspoonful every third hour.—[Dr. Polk in *Druggists' Circular.*

INFANTILE VOMITING.

Purgatives or ordinary astringents being either premised or contra-indicated, a valuable remedy is known in quarter or half-drop doses of dilute hydrocyanic acid, with a grain or two of soda, in camphor or dill water. But in severe cases with much depression, and in many cases, as an alternative treatment, bismuth and creosote together will be found of eminent value.

SYRUP OF SALICYLIC ACID.

In giving this acid the annexed formula, for a syrup, has been suggested:

R. Salicylic acid	½	drachm.
Oil of sweet almonds	10	drachms.
Gum-arabic	10	drachms.
Syrup of almonds	12	drachms.
Orange-flower water	12	drachms.

NUTRITIVE MEAT JELLY.

Dr. Anstie, in his lectures on diseases of the nervous system, says that when it is necessary to give condensed nutriment in smallest possible bulk, "nothing equals this jelly":

"Lean beef fillet, 3 pounds; lean veal, 3 pounds; lean mutton, 3 pounds; cut up small and put into a saucepan *with no water;* simmer (never boiling) by the side of the fire for eight hours; strain the liquid (from a small quantity of tasteless insoluble fibre that remains), and let it jellify into a soft mass. This is an immensely concentrated *meat*, minus very little but the water which has been driven off; a teaspoonful or two of it is a wonderful support, and can be taken every hour with ease."

CARBOLIC ACID VAPOR IN WHOOPING-COUGH.

Dr. Burchardt, of the University of Berlin, states that he has used the steam of a solution of carbolic acid in water (1½ to 2 parts of acid in 100 parts of water) for inhalations, three times a day, with perfect and speedy success in the treatment of whooping-cough. The same inhalations, he adds, may also be used with great advantage in other affections of the respiratory organs. This use of carbolic acid will be no new thing to many American physicians, who, to our personal knowledge, have prescribed it more or less in these affections for several years past.

LINIMENTUM AMMONIÆ.

In reference to the old formula, which produces an emulsion, changing gradually into a semi-solid soap, Professor Tichborne recommended the following:

Oleic acid	1 ounce.
Water	2 ounces.
Strong solution of ammonia	2 ounces.

Mix the water and oleic oil, and add the solution of ammonia gradually but with agitation. This will yield a liniment of definite and unchangeable composition.

HOW TO USE ADHESIVE PLASTER IN CHRONIC MAMMARY ABSCESS.

By Hunter McGuire, M. D., Professor Surgery, Medical College of Virginia, Richmond.

I know of no operation in minor surgery that requires more individual tact than the successful application of adhesive straps to the breast in chronic mammary abscess; and yet when, through neglect, or mismanagement, or, as will often be the case in some feeble and strumous women, in spite of every care, the matter has burrowed about, and numerous sinuses have formed, there is no means so rapidly remedial as pressure properly applied in this way.

The use of compressed sponge, retained by a bandage around the body, has the serious objection of interfering with respiration, and the pus which it absorbs soon undergoes decomposition, and becomes offensive. That cruel practice of following the sinuses with a director, and slitting them up to make them heal from the bottom, was a slow and unsatisfactory method, and I hope has been universally abandoned; less severe, but equally unsatisfactory, is the attempt to close the passages by stimulating injections of any kind.

Although the mammary gland differs in size, shape and position on the thorax, in different women, the following plan of applying the strips of plaster, will, I think, answer in nearly every case. A dependent outlet for the matter should be secured if possible, and this opening and others, if more than one sinus exists, should be left uncovered by the plaster. Cut the plaster into strips from four to six inches in length, and from a half to three-quarters of an inch in width, according to the size of the breast. After warming the plaster, apply one end of a strip to the circumference of the gland near the axilla. Take another strip of the same length and width and fasten its end to the inner circumference of the breast near the sternal bone. The ends of the two strips of plaster thus applied are held in place by an assistant, while the surgeon takes the free extremities of the strips and drawing them towards each other—that is, drawing the breast from its circumference toward its centre—crosses the strips and fastens them. Two more strips are then applied just

below and lapping slightly the first two pieces. Continue in this way till the whole breast is covered (somewhat upon the same principle and manner that we use strips in an indolent sore on the leg), leaving the nipple and fistulous orifices uncovered. A piece of moistened lint is placed over the sinuses to catch the pus which escapes. If properly applied the adhesive plaster makes uniform compression, and from the circumference toward the nipples. At every inspiration, the strips are made tighter and the pressure greater, and in this way the sinuses are emptied and their walls approximated. The strips should be daily renewed. This application of plaster is useful also in chronic induration of the breast, and to prevent purulent infiltration, as well as for the cure of these old sinuses. Along with the above local treatment there are usually required, fresh air, exercise, and general tonics.— *Virginia Medical Monthly.*

MEDICAL VALUE OF EUCALYPTUS.

Dr. Paul Boyce says, in the *Virginia Medical Monthly:* "A case of ague and fever, which had been treated with quinia, arsenic, etc., was cured in four days by simply taking the essence of eucalyptus (prepared from the oil distilled from the leaves), two drachms three times a day. I believe we possess in the separate eucalyptus a remedy not inferior to the cinchona alkaloids. The oil applied to the nerve of a tooth destroys its sensitiveness and quiets the pain. In purulent catarrhal affections of the urethra, *it acts like a charm.*"

MEDICAL USES OF CALABAR BEAN.

Dr. W. Munro says, in the *British Medical Journal*: "I have used extract of calabar bean with advantage as a sudorific, in cases of incipient bronchitis, congestion of the liver, phthisis, with dry, hot skin, etc., being always able to bring down the temperature two or three degrees, when sufficient doses are used; such dose being, for an ordinary adult, one-fifth, or at least one-sixth of a grain, as a minimum, which can be safely repeated every four to six hours, till the desired effect is produced, so long as the patient is carefully watched."

TREATMENT OF WOUNDS.

Dr. A. C. Mackenzie, in the American *Journal of Medical Sciences*, states that he treats wounds with much success with water and a balsamic compound. The warm water not only hastens the exit of disintegrated material, but conveys to the sufferer that soothing effect which heat alone communicates. The formula which I am accustomed to use in my practice is the following:

Take Balsam fir.....	2	ounces.
True Venice turpentine.....	2	"
Oil of sweet almond	2	"

Add carbolic acid, half ounce, previously dissolved in 2 ounces warm glycerine. M.

Sig. Apply with a flat camel's hair-brush, and inject into the interstices of the wound with glass syringe, having previously cleansed the wound with very warm water and bulb syringe.

Warm water applied *ad libitum*, and the diseased or injured portion enveloped in flannel cloths, immersed in water as hot as can be borne comfortably.

THE CATHETER IN ENLARGED PROSTATE.

At a meeting of the Tri-States' Medical Association, held at the Delaware House, Port Jervis, New York, December 1, 1875, Dr. W. L. Appley, of Cochecton, New York, read a paper on the treatment of enlarged prostate, advocating the early use of the catheter as the best remedy, giving his experience, and the result of several cases treated by him in this way: three men over sixty years of age that had acquired the tolerance of the catheter, and introduced it themselves four or five times daily, and could not void a drop of urine without it, depend upon it entirely to empty the bladder; one had used it two years, one four or five, and one had worn a silver catheter, constantly, for ten years, removing it once a week, long enough to wash it. The man is hale, ruddy-faced, and quite active. The Doctor urged it as a duty upon the profession to be unanimous in insisting upon the early use of the catheter by the unwilling patient; and have him understand the importance of commencing the use of the instrument early, and have him learn to be his own surgeon, and acquire the tolerance of the instrument before he has retention.

ON CHLORIDE OF AMMONIA.

Chloride of ammonia, price one shilling a pound, is sold extensively in Indian bazars, for cleaning gold lace, as well as for medicinal use, and appears obtained from the unburnt extremity of brick-kilns in which camels' manure is used as fuel. Of course, dirty and impure, it requires to be dissolved, strained, and recrystallized before internal administration. In England, sal-ammoniac appears chiefly used for cold lotions or freezing mixtures; yet, for years the Germans and the French have used it as an alterative deobstruent; and, in that interesting work, the "Indian Pharmacopœia," the properties of chloride of ammonium include being useful in chronic affections of the lungs, liver, spleen, in hepatic or ovarian dropsy, in passive hemorrhages (especially hæmoptysis), in facial neuralgia, rheumatism, sciatica, amenorrhœa, whooping-cough, intermittent as well as remittent fevers. Locally, it has been applied to indolent tumors, enlarged glands, incipient mammary, abscesses, hydrocele, bruises, strains, and certain cutaneous diseases. One reads constant praises of the bromide, the iodide of ammonium, yet scarcely ever even mention of the chloride. Just as Dr. Docker revived the fame of ipecacuanha, so did Dr. Stewart, in 1870, endeavor to introduce into notice the varied virtues of chloride of ammonium, and was, according to custom, promptly contradicted. The fact is, he tried to prove too much: for instance, that the remedy would charm away the pus out of an abscess or abscesses in the liver, would bring the sides of the cavity together, and, with a reduced, reinvigorated liver, the patient would go on his way rejoicing. Dr. Stewart gave scruple doses, morning and evening, kept his patient very still, and on the lightest of diet. His idea was that chloride of ammonium, besides being a general stimulant—diaphoretic, laxative, diuretic, and sedative—relieved the portal circulation, causing also absorption and elimination of diseased products. Very many medical officers think highly of this remedy; others say it is worse than useless, causing dysentery. So far, in remittent and intermittent fevers, in hepatic congestion or splenic enlargement, the satisfactory results are sufficiently encouraging to make extensive trial of chloride of ammonium.—[Dr. Hogg in *Medical Times and Gazette.*

A CASE OF TALIPES VARUS.

BY T. P. GALLOUPE, M. D., OF LYNN.

The patient was born on the 25th of August, 1875. The labor had been tedious, and at its completion all parties concerned were so much fatigued, that no critical examination of the child was made. The next morning my attention was called to the feet; I found each of them twisted inwards, so that when the child cried or kicked, the sole looked almost directly upwards; the heels were also raised. It was a case of talipes varus of rather more than medium severity. The foot, however, could be easily brought into its normal position, and retained with slight force, there being but little shortening of the integuments and subjacent tissues. These circumstances led me to try the following simple treatment by adhesive straps:

To protect the skin from injury, a soft bandage of old linen was first applied. The foot being held in its normal position, one end of a strip of adhesive plaster (about eight inches long by half an inch wide) was applied to the dorsum of the foot, at the root of the middle toe, carried inwards, around the head of the metatarsal bone of the great toe, across the sole, and around the outer border of the foot, close to the little toe; then upwards, over the front of the ankle and spirally around the leg. Several short strips were applied crosswise for further security, with a roller over the whole. By this means the foot was held firmly yet comfortably in its natural position. Once in three or four days, or as often as was necessary, the whole was removed, the skin bathed, and the straps and bandages readjusted. After two weeks, I substituted for the long strip of plaster a piece of common "elastic" of the same width, about three inches in length, to each end of which a piece of plaster had been sewed, to secure it to the foot and leg. This was adjusted to the foot in the same manner as before, but it was carried up upon the outer side of the leg instead of spirally around it. This was an improvement, inasmuch as it secured constant traction, and at the same time allowed a limited motion of the foot, thereby not only preventing the weakness consequent upon inaction of the muscles, but also giving an opportunity for their exercise and increase of strength. This treatment was continued for six weeks, when the deformity was found to be cured.

This method is simple, efficient, and economical, and would be successful in many cases of not extreme severity. Any nurse or mother of ordinary intelligence could manage it, with occasional oversight by the surgeon.—[*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

HOW TO CHECK COUGHS.

Dr. Brown-Sequard, in his late Boston lectures, says that there are many facts which show that morbid phenomena of respiration can always be stopped by the influence of arrest. Coughing, for instance, can be stopped by pressing on the nerves of the lip in the neighborhood of the nose. A pressure there may prevent a cough when it is beginning. Sneezing may be stopped by the same mechanism. Pressing in the neighborhood of the ear, right in front of the ear, may stop coughing. It is also preventive of hiccough, but much less so than of sneezing or coughing. Pressing very hard on the top of the mouth inside is also a means of stopping coughing. And, he adds, that the will has immense power there. There was a French nurse who used to say, "The first patient who coughs here will be deprived of his food to-day." It was exceedingly rare that a patient coughed then.

WAXED PAPER AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR LINT AND OILED SILK.

Dr. Dyce Duckworth, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, when using ointments for the cure of disease or abrasions of the skin applies them on waxed paper instead of lint. This is the material used by pharmacists for covering gallipots, etc.; it consists simply of thin tissue-paper dipped in melted wax. A piece of this is cut of a size sufficient to extend beyond the margins of the sore place; the ointment suitable to the case is smeared on the centre, not too thickly, and it is then carefully adapted to the affected part. It is adhesive, so that there is no necessity for strapping or bandaging; it is very cheap, and it is cooler than lint. Dr. Duckworth uses it even for extensive eczema of the limbs.

TREATMENT OF FUNCTIONAL HEADACHE.

For the headaches which depend on anæmia of the brain, usually resulting from nervous exhaustion, and following mental work or physical fatigue, Dr. Hamilton gives tea or cocoa at the time, and recommends the following prescription:

R.	Strychniæ sulph.....	1 grain.
	Acidi phosh.....	6 drachms.
	Tr. ferri. chlor.....	6 drachms.
	Aquæ camphoræ.....	4 ounces.

Sig.—A teaspoonful after eating.

Aromatic spirits of ammonia and sherry may be given several times a day with good effect. Muriate of ammonia is an invaluable remedy in these headaches, particularly in hemisrania. It should be given in very large doses—from ten grains to thirty —every hour until relief is obtained.

SALICYLIC ACID.

Professor Crede has employed at his obstetrical clinic at Leipsic, a solution composed of one part of salicylic acid to from twenty to sixty parts of distilled water, and a powder of one part of the acid and five of starch. He has used these as vaginal injections after delivery, in ulceration of the cervix following labor, and also as general disinfectants. The results have been so satisfactory that he particularly recommends this agent to all obstetricians.—[*Bulletin General de Therapeutique.*

DRY EARTH FOR ULCERS OF THE FOOT.

For the healing of gangrenous ulcers of the foot, the following procedure is recommended: Take dry earth (like gypsum) and use in such a manner that a layer comes to lie upon the ulcer itself. This should be secured by means of a cloth moistened with pure water. The dressing remains twelve hours. In the Indian hospitals very good results have been obtained by this application —[*Medical Zeitung.*

SLEEPLESSNESS.

Dr. George Johnson, in a lecture on the effects of overwork and mental anxiety, alludes to the sleeplessness and anorexia which are almost invariably caused by these conditions. He says it is not always easy to determine whether the loss of appetite is a direct result of the nervous excitement, or whether the restlessness is a result of the diminished supply of nutriment to the brain; but that it is probable that the two conditions have a mutual influence upon each other. In cases resulting from overwork, he has observed in numberless instances that a man who has been more or less restless for many months, and who, during that time, has had a loathing for food, after taking a grain of opium at bedtime for a few nights, sleeps soundly for several hours, and wakes with an appetite. This tends to prove that in such cases the derangements of the nervous system are first in order of time and importance.—[*Lancet.*

BORATE OF SODA GARGLES.

A pharmacist, of Lyons, remarks that in gargles, borate of soda is generally combined with honey, or honey of roses, or even with syrup of mulberries; that is to say, with products which dissolve a very small quantity of this salt. It would, therefore, be more advantageous to compound these measures with equal parts of glycerine and borate of soda. A definite and considerably more active solution is thus obtained, for glycerine mixes well with honey as well as with syrups.

CARBOLIC ACID INJECTIONS IN RHEUMATISM.

Various German writers recommend hypodermic injections of carbolic acid, in the proportion of one, two, or three per cent. of the acid, to allay the pain of acute rheumatism. They state that for five or six hours after such an injection the joint is quite comfortable, and can be moved without inconvenience. Its action is local and temporary, does not cut short the disease, but makes it more bearable.

MILK AS A MEDICINE.

This article, once looked upon with distrust, has now become a valuable agent in the treatment of disease, and is on all hands recommended by practitioners of medicine as being a safe and reliable article in the list of curables. Given warm, it is declared to be almost a specific in diarrhœa. A pint every four hours, it is affirmed, will check the most violent diarrhœa, stomach-ache, incipient cholera and dysentery. It is also pronounced invaluable in typhoid fever. It nourishes and cools the body. Dr. Alexander Yale says, "We believe that milk nourishes in fever, promotes sleep, wards off delirium, soothes the intestines, and in fine, is the *sine qua non* in typhoid fever." This gentleman further says, "In scarlet fever give all the milk the patient will take, even during the period of greatest fever; it keeps up the strength of the patient, acts well upon the stomach, and is in every way a blessed thing in this sickness." The authority in these cases say that the milk should never be boiled, as that unfits it for use.—[*N. Y. E. M. Journal.*

THE SUNFLOWER AS A PREVENTIVE OF MIASMA.

A correspondent of the *Soil of the South*, writing from a place in Alabama, which he says was particularly subject to fevers, gives the result of his experience in the premises; and in not a single instance where he planted sunflowers around his negro cabins did their inmates suffer from fevers, while his wife, two children and two house-servants, all had fevers, he not having planted any of the sunflowers around his own dwelling, which, in his opinion, accounts for the difference in the results.

BALDNESS.

Dr. Pincus recommends weak alkaline washes to arrest baldness. Solution of potash (1 to 500), or of its bicarbonate (15 grains to the ounce), may be employed, two or three drachms being rubbed into the scalp daily, and after a time less frequently. He continues the treatment for a year or more.

AILANTHUS IN DYSENTERY.

Dr. Cobert, Medical Chief of the British Navy in China, extols the bark of the root of this tree as superior to ipecacuanha, or any other drug in the treatment of dysentery. It is intensely bitter, like quinia, and produces vomiting when freely used. Dr. Cobert found the dried bark of the root as good as the recent. The Chinese physicians who employ it give a cup of the strong infusion twice a day. The tree grows luxuriantly in all parts of the United States, having been introduced for the purpose of shade. It is a very rapid grower, and propagates itself abundantly by shoots from the root, being almost a nuisance in this respect. The tree is quite common in California, and is known as the Ailanthus, or Pride of China.

GLYCERINE AS A THERAPEUTIC AGENT.

Dr. C. H. Lidd states that children raised by hand can be kept comparatively free from many of the ills to which they are subject, if from 4 to 6 drachms daily of glycerine be substituted for sugar. When the bowels are irritable, glycerine should always be substituted for sugar. The exosmotic properties of glycerine surpass those of any agent at our command, and it has the property of withdrawing the watery elements from any tissue to which it is continuously applied. Marion Sims showed that a ball of lint saturated with glycerine, will arrest the secretion of a suppurating surface; and Furst and Eberhurd state that they have successfully used a glycerine plug in fluor albus --[*Edinburgh Medical Journal.*

WHERE SHALL THE CONSUMPTIVE GO?

Almost every one has an interest in this question. A map was shown by Dr. Van Bibber, having but three small white spots upon it; one is amongst the Cumberland mountains; another in the mountains and hills of Western North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, of which the town of Ashville and Aiken are the centres.

THE BLOOD CURE.

The practice which came so rapidly and widely in vogue of taking for consumption and some other diseases draughts of warm blood the moment when extracted from the calf or ox, has gone into considerable disuse of late, on account of distaste, inconvenience, and other reasons. Dr. De Pascale, of Nice, has successfully adopted a substitute in the form of dry, powdered blood. The blood of the animal, after being dried in a water-bath, is reduced to a very fine powder, and grated through a sieve, and it can thus be taken for any length of time without repugnance, being almost tasteless; can be taken as any common powder, mixed with soups, milk, marmalade, or chocolate, or inclosed in a wafer. Dr. De Pascale has given it, in some cases, mixed with a little pepsia. The quantity of the powder he varies according to the patient's age, sex, state of health and digestive power; in general, beginning with thirty grains, increasing as circumstances may dictate.

QUININE IN ERYSIPELAS.

Dr. LeMournier, in the *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal*, gives cases in which he used quinine very successfully. He gives it in doses of 2 grains every hour or two, and gives, also, the best diet. He agrees with Bequet that if the salt is given in small doses the cerebro-spinal functions are at first excited, whilst, if the dose be kept up and increased, a sedative action results. When given in small doses, and at long intervals, it gives energy to the pulsation of the heart, and increases the force and frequency of the pulse. On the other hand, when given in large doses, and at short intervals, it has a sedative effect on the cardio-vascular system, and depresses calorification.

THE UNMANAGEABLE VOMITINGS OF PREGNANCY.

The *Journal de Medecine et Chirurgie* quotes a communication from M. Tarnier, respecting a case in which, in a multipara, in the third month of pregnancy, serious, unmanageable vomitings were arrested by simple application of a plug of wadding to the vagina.

GELSEMINUM IN NEURALGIA.

For the relief of neuralgic pain, Spencer Thompson, M. D., writes favorably of the employment of the tincture of gelseminum. Directly or indirectly the remedy has been used by Dr. Thompson or under his authority in at least forty cases of neuralgia, and with almost constant success. The remedial power of the agent seems to be applicable to neuralgia of those branches of the trifacial nerve supplying the upper and lower jaw, more particularly the latter; it is especially useful when the pain is most directly referred to the teeth or alveoli. The doses usually recommended are too small. Dr. Thompson almost invariably prescribes for an adult twenty minims of the tincture as a first dose; to be repeated any time after an hour and a half, if relief is not given. He has rarely had to order a third dose. Several cases are given to illustrate the successful employment of the drug.

NITRITE OF AMYL IN NERVOUS PROSTRATION.

The use of nitrite of amyl in nervous headache is recommended by R. A. Douglas-Lithgow, in the *Lancet*. The writer's method is to place two drops on the palm of the patient's hand, and quickly diffusing with the finger over the palmar surface, the patient immediately covers the mouth and nose with the hand, and inspires deeply and quietly. The patient should be seated while inhaling, as the peculiar effects of the remedy are produced almost instantaneously, and may occasionally alarm a nervous and hysterical female. These symptoms last but a short time, and with their cessation the pain almost invariably ceases. Two drops of the remedy may be given as a draught in water instead of inhalation, but the results of the latter method are far more satisfactory.

TRAGACANTH MUCILAGE.

Take of powdered tragacanth 1 drachm, glycerine 6 drachms, water enough to make in all 10 ounces, rub the tragacanth in a mortar with the glycerine, and then add the water. This will produce a mucilage at once of excellent quality.

TREATMENT OF INSANITY.

In a recent work, Dr. Despine, of Paris, discusses the theory of emotion and the emotional treatment of insanity. He believes that the disturbing action, either for good or evil, may be attributed to an insometric change in the histologic elements of the brain, determined by a disturbance of the nerve elements which preside over the nutrition of this organ, or to a change in the capillary circulation by an action of the vaso-motor nerves, influenced by causes which have impressed the nervous system. This theory is sufficient to explain all the attack or cures of insanity from such curious effects as typhoid fever, scarlatina, pneumonia, injuries, loud noises, etc.

Opium and morphia excite the nervous centres of the vaso-motor nerves; they give tenacity to the muscles of the small vessels, favoring their contraction, and consequently increasing the capillary circulation.

The state of *somnambulism*, artificially produced, is one of the most powerful sedatives; it suspends cerebral activity, and is of remarkable efficacy in the treatment of obstinate hysteria.

Camphor is valuable in disturbance of the genital organs, especially onanism.

Quinine is recommended when the insanity has a periodic character, or when it shows itself in marshy districts, or when it is a sequel of dangerous and obstinate remittent fever.

Digitalis, in twenty minim doses, calms the maniacal excitement of epilepsy.

GUMMED ADHESIVE PAPER.

Paper in sheets, half of which are gummed on both sides, and the other half on one side, and divided into strips and squares of different sizes by perforations, like sheets of postage stamps, are convenient in many ways—the doubly-gummed answering for fixing drawings in books, labels on glass, etc. It is stated that the mixture by which it is coated is prepared by dissolving six parts of glue, previously soaked for a day in cold water, two parts of sugar, and three parts of gum-arabic, in twenty-four parts of water, by the aid of heat.

SALICYLIC ACID IN DIPHTHERIA.

Dr. Letzerich has made a number of experiments as regards the action of salicylic acid upon the organism found in diphtherial deposits, the result showing that this acid possesses the power of killing the germs in question. He has also used salicylic acid in seven cases of the disease, five of which were mild, two severe. In the former cases a gargle, according to the following formula was employed:

R. Acid, salicylic.....15 grains.
Solve in sp. vin. rect.....30 drops.
Aq. distillat. ad..... 8 ounces.

Under the frequent use of this gargle the diphtheritic membrane disappeared from the throat entirely in from two to four days. In the severe cases the treatment was internal and external. Four and a half grains of the powder, with an equal quantity of sugar, were administered every two hours, and the throat was swabbed with a solution of the acid in alcohol and water (five parts acid, one part alcohol, and fifty parts water). In addition, the throat was occasionally touched with a damp camel's hair-pencil, dipped in the powdered acid.

The result of this treatment was so favorable that Dr. Letzerich urges strongly its further trial.

STUDYING FOR A PROFESSION.

A young, independent New Englander, who had an eye on No. 1, was studying for the ministry in one of the one hundred and and eight theological schools in the United States, and when about to graduate, he found out that this was one of the worst paid professions, as people in general care more for their bodies than for their souls; so at the nick of time he changed his mind and studied medicine in one of the ninety-two medical colleges. When almost through this very useful course of training, he discovered an important fact—namely, that people care more for their pockets than for their bodies, or for anything else. This settled the matter for him; he again changed his mind—this time definitely—he went to study law.—[*Manufacturer and Builder.*

PROPYLAMIN IN ACUTE RHEUMATISM.

Dr. Lee has treated twenty-eight cases of acute rheumatism with a solution of 1 gramme of propylamin and 10 of sugar, in 120 grammes of peppermint-water, of which a tablespoonful was given every two hours; altogether, from 3 to 5 grammes was taken by each patient, whose limbs were bandaged with cotton-wood and card-board. All the twenty-eight cases suffered from multiple joint affections: in fourteen cases, the disease appeared for the first time; in the other fourteen, it was recurrent once or repeatedly; five cases were complicated with slight, five with severe, affection of the heart; one with acute œdema of lungs, and one with diphtheria; all were restored to perfect health and military duty except one. The average duration of the illness in these cases was 17.7 days per head: none were discharged before full recovery was proved by increased weight of body and gymnastic exercises.—[*The Lancet.*

PREVENTION FOR TORMENTING HORSES, ETC., BY FLIES.

M. Rochard, a veterinary surgeon, describes a simple and economical means of preventing the suffering which is induced in horses and other animals by the persecution of flies; and which our provincial readers will probably be induced to try. It consists in painting with a pencil the insides of the ears, or other parts liable to be bitten, with a few drops of empyreumatic juniper oil (*huile de cade*). Insects will not approach the parts so painted, and the cost of the oil is trifling—[*Journal des Connaissances Medicale.*

PRESERVING MAGENDIE'S SOLUTION.

If to each ounce of Magendie's solution of sulphate of morphia, five grains of hydrate of chloral is added, the solution will keep without deterioration in strength and quality for an indefinite length of time; the addition of the chloral prevents fermentative change, and does away with the necessity of making a fresh solution every few days.—[T. C. S., in the *Southern Medical Record.*

ELIXIR OF PEPSIN.

Powdered pepsin	256 grains.
Muriatic acid	1 drachm.
Orange-flower water	8 ounces.
Bitter-almond water	2 ounces.
Simple syrup	2 ounces.
Glycerine	2 ounces.
Deodorized alcohol	2 ounces.

Mix.

The following is Mr. E. Scheffer's formula:

Saccharated pepsin	64 grains.
Water	5 fld. ounces.
Muriatic acid	1 fld. ounce.
Glycerine	3 fld. ounces.

Shake the pepsin, the water, and the acid in a bottle until all is completely dissolved; add the glycerine, and filter. Each fluid ounce of the liquid should dissolve one and a half drachms of coagulated albumen.

TO CHECK VOMITING FROM COUGH.

Consumptives and others suffering from paroxysms of cough frequently vomit their food in such paroxysms. Dr. Woilliez recommends swabbing the pharynx before eating with a solution of bromide of potash:

R. Pot. brom	2 drachms.
Aquæ distil	4 drachms.

Warning the patient not to cough for a few minutes after the application. The same treatment is recommended for the vomiting of pregnancy. It is said to be very successful.

ON STRYCHNINE POISONING.

A writer in the *Scientific American* (November 27th) gives the following as the treatment in strychnine-poisoning, discovered by Dr. Grace Calvert, in 1852. The remedy is: To counteract strychnine, and cause it to be brought away by vomiting (if it has not been taken more than thirty minutes), pour down the throat one-half a grain of nitrate of soda every twenty minutes, until vomiting takes place. The patient will then sleep about forty hours, and wake all right.

A CASE OF STRANGULATED HERNIA REDUCED BY THE AID OF ASPIRATION.

BY I. G. HEILMAN, M. D.

The following case is reported with a view of urging upon the notice of the profession a resource in the reduction of strangulated hernia, which, from its simplicity, safety and efficiency, is worthy of more attention than it has hitherto received. An analysis of twenty-four cases, treated in this manner, shows that in no one did bad results follow the puncture, that in all, except where adhesions existed, reduction was accomplished with the greatest ease after the gases and fluids of the tumor have been withdrawn, and that the aspiration in nowise increased the danger of the knife-operation performed immediately afterwards. Indeed, no trace of the puncture was discovered in any of the operations. From my experience with this case, and study of such other cases as I could find reported in the various medical journals, I can but regard the aspirator as a most valuable aid to the taxis. It should be used early—immediately after a careful and thorough attempt at reduction has failed. As will be seen below, only such instruments as every physician has at hand are needed.

CASE—J. S., aged 30, colored, laborer, has oblique inguinal hernia on the left side, of eight years' standing. Became strangulated November 29, 1875, at 7 P. M. I saw him at 9 P. M.; he was then lying on his back, with the knees retracted and the shoulders elevated. The tumor was about the size of a good goose-egg, tense and very painful. He vomited frequently; at first, the ingesta, and afterwards, bilious matter. I attempted reduction, but failed. Applied ice for about half an hour, then administered chloroform, but was unable to replace it; ordered cold applications to be continued during the night, and morphia to be given in sufficient quantities to relieve the pain.

November 30, 9 A. M., saw the case with Dr. Edward Stone. We again put him under the influence of chloroform, but were unable to effect the reduction. We also tried the method, so highly lauded by some, of suspending the patient by the feet; but this method also failed. Continued the application of ice.

At 1:30 P. M., Drs. Stone and L. B. Hall and myself, found the appearance of the tumor unchanged. There were no symp-

toms of severe inflammation, and the man's condition was good. He still vomited occasionally, and suffered severe pain. It was now decided to try aspiration, and, if this failed, to operate with the knife. As no aspirator was at hand, we improvised one, as follows: An ordinary hypodermic needle was connected, by means of a rubber tube, with the nozzle of a common, perfectly air-tight syringe, furnished with a stop-cock; the latter, however, is not essential, as an assistant can close the tube by pressure, as needed. The piston having been depressed, and the needle introduced into the tumor, the apparatus was ready for use; on raising the piston, the intestinal gases filled the syringe; the stop-cock was now closed, the syringe removed, emptied, and reapplied. This process was repeated until the swelling had entirely disappeared. A few ounces of serum, apparently the contents of the sac, were also withdrawn. After the needle had been removed, the slightest upward pressure reduced the hernia. A compress and cold-water dressing was the treatment locally, with opiates internally. The man had no pain at any time after the operation, and his pulse was never more than seventy-six per minute. On the fourth day, his bowels moved twice freely, and he felt so comfortable that he wished to resume his usual work. On the seventh day, he was discharged well.—[*Medical Times.*

TREATMENT OF PERICARDIAL EFFUSION.

Dr. J. W. Martin reports in the *Medical Press and Circular* the case of a girl, aged twenty, who presented herself November 22d: As she complained of soreness in the epigastric region, I closely examined the state of the heart. There was decided tenderness to the touch over the region of the heart, and pain felt on making steady pressure upward under the ribs; area of dullness greatly enlarged, measuring four and a half inches downward from the lower border of the third rib on the left side, and six inches in the lateral direction from midsternum over to the left to a point about two and a half inches outside a line drawn vertically through the left nipple; heart's pulse could not be felt; the first sound very faint and indistinct at the apex; the second also indistinct over the base; a soft murmur audible over the whole region of the heart synchronous with the systole,

its maximum intensity being at a point midsternum on a level with the articulation of the third rib; this murmur was not prolonged into the aorta or carotids; its general character seemed to be that of a friction murmur. Lungs healthy.

As treatment, a blister was applied over the heart for eight hours, and the following mixture prescribed:

R. Potass, iodidii	44	grains.
Tr. aconite	1½	drachm.
Syrupi	1	ounce.
Aquæ ad	8	ounces. M.

Two tablespoonfuls to be taken three times a day.

November 27th. Blister acted well; in every way felt much improved. Area of cardiac dullness diminished, measuring three by three inches. Heart's action strong; both sounds perfectly distinct, rhythm regular. The first sound accompanied by the soft friction murmur previously described in connection with the systole, this murmur being now more distinct. The heart's impulse felt strongly on placing the hand over the apex. Pulse, 88; tongue, clean; bowels, confined; respiration, easy. Dyspnœa, headaches, and palpitation gone. Capable of increasing exertion; can walk against an incline without any sense of distress. Treatment continued.

December 4th. Friction murmur still heard, but all soreness and other discomfort gone. She expressed herself as feeling quite strong again. Able to resume work.

July 21, 1875. The improvement in this case has, so far, proved permanent. She has remained steadily at her work without any return of her former unpleasant symptoms.

The gravity of the symptoms, and the success attending their treatment in the foregoing case, are worthy of note. The probabilities of the case all point to the existence of pericardiac effusion. The faintness of the first sound, the loss of impulse, and the subsequent disappearance of the dullness under treatment, seem to negative the possibility of hypertrophy.

WINE OF PEPSIN.

Powdered pepsin	256	grains.
Muriatic acid	1	drachm.
Sherry wine	16	ounces.

Mix.

Mr. Crichton Browne (*British Medical Journal*) has used calabar bean in two cases of that hitherto hopeless disease, general paralysis The first, a man of 40, had ambitious delirium and commencing paralysis. Doses of ¼ grain of calabar bean extract were given for a month without effect. The dose was then increased to ⅛ of a grain, and croton-oil applied to the head. Improvement was perceived at the end of a month; and the patient is said to have completely recovered eight months later. The second case was a woman, aged 37, in whom the disease had been creeping on for twelve months, and for whom was prognosticated certain death a year later. Oxide of zinc was given for four months, during which the paralysis only increased. Then the bean was administered in doses of ¼ grain. During three months the patient improved, but then had an attack of hemiplegia. The treatment was interrupted for a fortnight, then resumed, and in a year the patient had entirely recovered from the paralysis, while the intellect, though somewhat childish, was quite rational. The utility of calabar bean in this dreadful disease, if confirmed, would be difficult to explain.

INFUSUM OPII ACIDUM.

R. Pulv. opii	1 ounce.
Acidi muriatici	1 ounce.
Aquæ distil	15 ounces.

Macerate for fourteen days, then filter and add sufficient water through the filter to make the preparation measure a pint when completed. The dose is twenty to forty drops, and is said not to cause headache.

HYPODERMIC INJECTION OF PURE WATER.

Dr. Lafitte has employed subcutaneous injections of pure water in a great variety of diseases attended with pain. He has obtained as much success in the relief of this latter element as when he employed injections of morphia, and attributes it to the compression of the terminal nervous filament by the injected water.—[*Le Mouvement Medical.*

SULPHURIC ACID IN DISEASED JOINTS.

At Guy's Hospital, London, says the London *Medical Times and Gazette*, the treatment of diseased joints by sulphuric acid is likely to be fully tried. Mr. Cooper Foster has resorted to it in one or two cases, and some weeks ago we had the opportunity of seeing the method applied by Mr. Durham.

Three patients were thus treated on this occasion, all of whom were suffering from advanced pulpy degeneration of the synovial membrane of a joint, and in one case a condyle of the femur was also necrosed, and a small piece of bone was removed from the joint with forceps. Four joints in three patients were operated upon; in one patient, the ankle-joint, in one, the knee, and in one, the knee and the wrist-joints, were the seats of disease. The mode of operating was simply to make one or more incisions into the joint, let out any flaky or puriform fluid which might be present, and then to stuff strips of lint, soaked in a mixture of one part of the sulphuric acid of the shops, with two of water, into it. The parts were then covered with carded oakum and a bandage, and the limb was fixed on a splint. No great amount of pain can be produced by the application, for one of the patients seemed quite comfortable and without any sign whatever of suffering when he saw her again, about half an hour after recovering consciousness from chloroform.

CITRIC ACID IN THE TREATMENT OF CANCER.

In *The British Medical Journal*, John H. Wood, M. D., reports a case of cancer of the œsophagus and cardiac orifice of the stomach. in which the symptoms were, for a time, very much relieved by the use of citric acid in large doses, combining it, on Dr. Sidney Ringer's plan, with wine of ipecac in minim doses.

ADHESIVE PLASTER.

According to Otto Facilides, adhesive plaster, which has become brittle by age, and has lost its adhesive qualities, may be rendered adhesive again by coating it with oil of turpentine, by means of a sponge, and leaving it exposed for a day.

BREATHING THROUGH THE NOSE.

There are various reasons for considering the nose the natural outlet of the lungs, and hence various advantages to be derived from breathing through the nose:

1st. If we breathe through the nose we will be enabled often to detect the presence of noxious odors in the air we breathe, and so be warned of danger in time to prevent it.

2d. The internal nose is studded with hairs, which, in some degree, at least, prevent the ingress of noxious matters with the air we breathe. Dust is strained out; and it is confidently asserted by persons who have tested the matter, that miasms are prevented from entering the blood if one breathes only through the nose. Some persons have lived in malarious districts, slept on the banks of malarious rivers, etc., for years, and yet have escaped all the forms of fevers which usually followed a residence in the country, who have ascribed their exemption solely to a settled habit of breathing only through the nose.

3d. By breathing through the nose, little if any air passes into the lungs until it has come in contact with the membranes of the nose, which are supposed to possess some power of neutralizing malarious and even contagious poisons.

4th. By drawing our breath only through the nose, the air is warmed by contact with the membranes before it reaches the lungs, and so inflammations and congestions of those organs are avoided.

Per contra, the habit, so common, of breathing through the mouth has many disadvantages. In this way a great volume of air is quickly taken in, loaded with dust, malarious or contagious impurities, etc., of which we are utterly unconscious, until the blood has been poisoned, and serious, and perhaps, fatal, disease been inaugurated. The cold air being taken in, in great volume and with great rapidity, chills the lungs; whereas, if breathed through the nose, it would be warmed before reaching the lungs.

The habit of breathing through the mouth is caused largely by weakness of the respiratory muscles; and one excellent method of strenghtening those muscles is to breathe through the nose. It is certainly as wise a plan as sucking air through a silver tube, so often recommended. Then breathe through the nose, as nature indicates, if you would have good health.

STRYCHNIA VS. OPIUM.

A very interesting case has just been reported to us, showing the antagonism of strychnia to opium. A gentleman, for suicidal purposes, took between 40 and 50 grains of gum-opium. Three hours later, when Drs. Harris, Ham, and other physicians were called, the man was apparently in a dying condition. His extremities were livid and pulseless, while his respirations were only eight per minute As consciousness was completely gone, and the opiate probably mostly absorbed, the stomach pump and the usual remedies were inapplicable. At the suggestion of Dr. Harris, not approved, nor yet positively condemned by the other physicians present, 40 minims of a saturated tincture of nux vomica were injected hypodermically, in quantities of about eight minims, at five different spots, over the chest, arms, etc. In fifteen minutes the patient sat up, and in twenty minutes walked about the room; and did not again sleep from the effects of the opium. No symptoms of strychnia-poisoning appeared. The tincture employed was prepared by Dr. Harris, who thinks it was fully as strong as a fluid extract should be.—[*Chicago Medical Times.*

COLLODION FOR USE IN FRECKLES.

A solution of corrosive sublimate, either pure or mixed with cyanide of mercury, is commonly employed for the removal of freckles; but a collodion containing ten per cent. of its weight of sulpho-carbolate of zinc has given excellent results without being accompanied by any of the dangers attending the use of the mercurial solution. The following formula is an excellent one:

Sulpho-carbolate of zinc	1 part.
Collodion	45 parts.
Oil of lemon	1 part.
Absolute alcohol	5 parts.

The sulpho-carbolate of zinc should be reduced to an extremely fine powder, and should then be thoroughly incorporated with the fluid mixture.—[*Bulletin General de Therapeutique.*

CHLORATE OF POTASH IS THE PUERPERAL ANTI-SEPTIC.

Where there is danger of puerperal fever, give it early, and continue until all danger is past. "An ounce of prevention is worth many pounds of cure."

VENTILATION.

Pure air is as essential to good health as are pure food and pure water. As atmospheric air is normally composed of nearly four parts of nitrogen to one of oxygen, with an admixture of three to six parts in one thousand of carbonic acid gas, and a small proportion of watery vapor, all deviations from this standard, and all factitious gases, particles, or organic germs, are sources of imperfect respiration, impure blood, and vital waste.

There are many impurities which sometimes accumulate in the atmosphere as to become causes of pestilence and death, but which no chemical or microscopical examinations can detect. The nature of the malaria which occasions periodical fevers, the *vomites* which causes yellow fever, the miasms of the gutters and tenement houses which cause typhoid fevers, and the emanations from offal and excreta which constitute the essential causes of croup, diphtheria, small-pox, measles, as well as the virus and venoms of animal origin, have thus far eluded all attempts at chemical and microscopical analysis. But for all practical purposes, it is enough to know that strict cleanliness and ample ventilation are our only preventive resources.

CHLOROFORM IN MALARIA.

Dr. Jos. Berens reports, in *The Medical Times*, four cases, in which good results followed the internal administration of chloroform in "chills and fever."

He calls attention to the absolute desuetude into which this remedy has fallen, together with the incontrovertible fact that the potency of quinia is not invariably sustained.

In the cases reported, the remedy was given in twenty drops to drachm doses hourly, from three to six hours preceding the expected attack.

LOCAL ANÆSTHESIA

May, it is said, be obtained by rubbing for a minute the part upon which it is desired to operate, with a mixture of powdered camphor, two and a half drachms, and sulphuric ether, five drachms.

BELLADONNA IN ASTHMA.

Dr. Lamadrid says: "To get the good effects of belladonna in asthma, it must be given in heroic doses. I usually apply the tincture of the United States' Pharmacopœia, in doses ranging from twenty to sixty drops. The strength of the tincture differs so much, as commonly kept in the shops, that the size of the dose must be lost sight of, and the quantity given regulated by the effect produced. It may be given during the paroxysm with great advantage, but it acts best when given before the attack commences. For example, if the patient has nocturnal attacks coming on after midnight, as is usual, give him a dose just before going to bed, and repeat it, if necessary to produce sound sleep. He fails to awake at the usual time for the attack to commence, and sleeps on, awakening in the morning very much refreshed and strengthened. The treatment may be repeated night after night, until sufficient time has been had to remove the tendency of the disease to return, either by changing his location, or adopting other requisite treatment, as the case may call for. I could relate several cases to prove the above statements, but will have to omit them for want of space.

Sometimes, but not often, belladonna produces dryness of the fauces and delirium. These are indications which show that it should be discontinued, and hydrate of chloral should be employed in its stead. It may be used on the same principles as belladonna to produce sleep, and thus ward off attacks.

CHILBLAINS.

The following local application has been recommended: Take of solution of sulphurous acid, three parts, glycerine and water, each one part. Mix. M. Schaller, of Vienna, speaks highly of the application of a concentrated solution of perchloride of iron, as effecting the cure of chilblains in a single day.

A VEHICLE FOR CHLOROFORM.

Prof. Jaillard says, that in order to prevent the irritating action of chloroform on the mucous membrane of the mouth, it is only necessary to administer it in milk, which, if wished, can be sweetened.—[*Practitioner.*

BISMUTH IN SKIN DISEASES.

The value of bismuth in alleviating the intense itching and irritation which accompanies chronic eczema, and other forms of skin diseases, is less known than it ought to be. In some obstinate cases, in which the inflamed condition of the derma is aggravated and kept up by the constant scratching and rubbing which the patient finds it impossible not to indulge in, I have found an ointment containing bismuth in the proportion of half a drachm of the subnitrate to the ounce of simple ointment, rubbed up with a little spirits of wine, and applied freely to the skin, gives great relief. The ointment must not be made with benzoated lard, or the reverse of a soothing effect may be produced.

RAW ONIONS AS A DIURETIC.

Recently at a meeting of the Medical Chirurgical Society, as reported in the *Edinburgh Medical Society*, Dr. G. W. Balfour gave an account of the patients who have been benefited by the use of large quantities of raw onions, which had acted as a diuretic. The first case was a woman who had suffered from large white kidney and constriction of the mitral valve. Her abdomen and legs had been tapped several times; but after using the remedy given above, she had been free from dropsy for two years, although still suffering from albuminuria. Of the other two, one suffered from cardiac disease, cirrhotic liver, and ascites; the other had ascites depending on tumor of the liver. In both cases the remedy had been given with good results. Both had been previously tapped, and purgatives and diuretics alike failed to give relief. Finding that the fluid was steadily reaccumlating, the patient had recourse to onions. Under their use, the amount of urine passed rose in a few days from ten ounces to a hundred ounces.

CHLORAL GLYCERITE OF MORPHIA AND CAMPHOR.

R. Morphia	5	grains.
Chloral	1	grain.
Camphor	1	grain.
Glycerin	½	fluid ounce.

M. sec. art.

GLYCERINE-SICHEL.

This preparation, which consists of pure glycerine and the yolk of egg, and has the appearance and consistency of honey, is highly praised as a local application for several purposes. In fissures of the nipples of nursing women, it affords relief when other remedies fail. In eleven such cases in which it was applied, it afforded relief in every one.

It has also been used in four cases of rupture of the perineum, and with equally favorable results.

In the clinic of Dr. Vernier, it is daily used to anoint the hands when making an examination of suspicious women, and found to be a perfect protection from infection.

This preparation does not putrefy—does not become rancid, like ointments—it assists in cleansing wounds, and promotes primary union.

In fissures of the mammæ, it protects the skin from the action of the saliva of the child, and from sour milk; it protects lesions of continuity from the air, and relieves pain. In ruptures of the perineum, it protects the torn surfaces from being irritated by the urine and lochiæ —[*Gazette Obstetricale et Gazette de Joulin.*

SILICATE OF SODA IN GONORRHŒA.

At the Roosevelt Hospital, injections of soda have been recently employed in the treatment of gonorrhœa, iu both acute and chronic stages:

R. Silicate of soda..... 20 grains.
Water..... 8 ounces. M.

The injections are given three times a day, with satisfactory results. No other treatment is combined with it.—[*The Medical Record.*

RHEUMATIC LINIMENT.

Chloral..... 4 drachms.
Camphor..... 6 drachms.
Tinct. aconite-root..... 1 ounce.
Oil cajeputi..... 3 drachms.
Alcohol, sufficient to make..... 4 ounces.

Apply with camel's hair-pencil over the painful part.

MUCILAGE FOR MINERALS, ETC.

Mr. F. C. Hill, of the Geological Museum, Princeton, N. J., writes to the *Journal of Pharmacy* as follows: "My friend, Professor R. P. Whitfield, of Alabany, New York, was good enough to give me the following recipe for mucilage to mend fossils and minerals, and after several months of experience with it in the Museum, I find it so valuable that, with his permission, I send it to you for the benefit of the readers of your journal:

Starch	2 drachms.
White sugar	1 ounce.
Gum-arabic	2 drachms.
Water	q. s.

"Dissolve the gum, add the sugar, and boil *until the starch is cooked.*

"Professor Whitfield is in the habit of drying it into sheets, on paper, and redissolving when wanted. He does not claim to have originated the recipe, but thinks it is one of the compositions offered to the United States for gumming stamps.

"It is certainly a very adhesive mucilage, and, owing to the sugar, never becomes brittle; so that it never scales off, as most glues do, from stones or other hard substances. In a geological cabinet, it is simply invaluable."

GOSSYPIUM IN DYSMENORRHŒA.

The following is the formula:

R. Fld. ext. gossypium herb .....
Fld. ext. ergot ..... } of each one ounce.
Tr. hellebore nig..... .....

M. Sig.—Teaspoonful every three hours.

Let the patient commence taking it three or four days before the menses are expected to occur.

PERNICIOUS MALARIAL FEVER.

Administer during the paroxysm, either during the cold or hot stage: R. Morphia, gr. ¼; chloroform, teaspoonful; camphor, gr. ii.; and repeat, if necessary. The effect of the remedy is not only to *abort the chill*, but to *shorten the febrile paroxysm* by several hours. The same remedy administered previous to the hour of chill will sometimes postpone the attack several hours, and sometimes prevent it altogether.—[*Dr. Rhett.*

ATROPIA IN OPIUM-POISONING.

Some practical remarks concerning the use of atropia, in cases of opium-poison, are contained in a lecture on the treatment of opium poisoning by Prof. H. C. Wood.

Dr. Wood says that atropia should be employed not as an antidote, but as a remedy, when the respiration is failing, precisely as alcohol is used when the circulation is failing. It is a powerful stimulant to the respiratory centres. If it be administered in small doses, when the breathing is very slow, the respirations are increased very remarkably in frequency, and the carbonic acid being thrown off from the blood, the patient arouses, restored to consciousness, not by the direct, but by the indirect, action of the remedy upon the nerve-centres. Use the alkaloid hypodermically, and in very small repeated doses. Belladonna-poisoning has often been produced by the improper use of atropia. It is commonly stated that the pupils should be the guide, the quantity given being regulated by the amount of the dilation produced. It is not proper to rely solely or chiefly on the state of the pupils. Inasmuch as the atropia is given to stimulate the respiration, its influence on that function should direct us in its administration. Suppose we had a patient who was in the last stages of opium-poisoning, with slow respirations—down to four or five in the minute, and had exhibited one-thirtieth of a grain of atropia hypodermically—if in fifteen minutes or half an hour, the respirations had risen to ten, we should know that the desired end was being accomplished, and as long as the breathing continued to increase in rapidity, we should give no more of the remedy; but if the respirations began to grow less frequent, it would be proper to exhibit the one-sixtieth of a grain, and repeat it every half-hour until the breathing showed the effect, or the dilation of the pupil warned us that we were approaching the danger-point. The golden rule is, *give the least possible quantity that will produce the required effect.*

SALICINE.

In the New York *Medical Journal*, salicine, in grain or half-grain doses, has been strongly recommended for chronic diarrhœa, either in infants or adults. It is supposed to act as an anti-septic upon the substances whose fermentation maintains the irritation of the intestine.

LOTION OF CHLORAL AND IODINE.

R. Iodine	20	grains.
Iodide of potassium	6	grains.
Glycerine	½	fluid ounce.
Chloral hydrate	2	drachms.

M. Sec. art.

Chloral can also be combined with collodion, in which it dissolves after the addition of a few drops of alcohol.

A solution, consisting of nine parts of hydrate of chloral and three of water, is capable of dissolving the following substances to the extent named:

One grain of morphia is dissolved by a portion of the liquid containing twelve grains of chloral hydrate; one grain of veratria by a portion containing five grains; and one grain of atropia by a portion containing twenty grains. These substances should be mixed in a state of powder, with the solvent, and heated by means of a water-bath, with occasional agitation. The solutions thus made are in a convenient form for employment, either alone or when mixed with oils, ointments, or with glycerine. Camphor, too, is finely dissolved by them.

PUMPKIN-SEEDS AS ANTHELMINTICS.

Some investigations, made by M. Heckel, respecting the active parts of pumpkin-seeds, are reported in the London *Lancet*:

These seeds have been much used of late for the expulsion of the tape-worm, for which purpose they were employed in the early part of the last century. The mode of their administration has hitherto been to give the bruised seeds in large quantities, suspended in water, the outer envelope only having been removed. About two ounces of the seed was the ordinary dose. It is probable that so large a quantity contains much inert matter. Some recent observations apparently indicate that the active principle is contained only in the embryo. To ascertain whether this is the case was the chief object of M. Heckel's observation. He first administered, in two cases of tænia, about six ounces of the perisperm, tegumentum and testa—a purgative of castor-oil having first been administered. The tape-worm was not expelled in any case. In two other cases the membrane surrounding the embryo was given—about half an ounce—preceded and followed

by a dose of castor-oil. In each case the tape-worm was expelled entire. Subsequent experiments yielded the same result. This membrane was then carefully examined, and found to consist of two membranes, separable by maceration in water. The outer membrane contained a resin in small quantities (one in seventeen), which M. Heckel believes to be the active agent. He believes the castor-oil acts not only by its purgative effect, but by dissolving the resin and rendering it active. The second membrane contained more chlorophyll than resin. It must not be forgotten that these seeds contain a fixed oil, to which their qualities have been ascribed, and which may be obtained by cold expression from the seeds in the proportion of half an ounce to a pound. This oil has been used with success, in repeated half-ounce doses, in case of tænia.

FORMULA FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF CROTON-CHLORAL HYDRATE.

R. Croton-chloral.....	30	grains.
Glycerine.....	1½	drachms.
Ext. glycyrrhiz.....	1	drachm.
Aq. et. syr. simple, of each.....	1½	fluid ounce.

M. Tablespoonful *pro re nata.*

PILLS OF THE ABOVE.

R. Croton-chloral.....
Pulv. glycyrrhiz..... } Of each 15 grains.
Confect. rosarum.....

Ft. in pil. No. 20. M.

CHRONIC-DYSENTERY.

The dysenteric symptoms in this, and a number of other cases, had been effectually relieved by the use of thirty drops of fluid extract of ergot three times a day.

Some cases of acute form of the disease, for instance, when the patient has had six or eight passages daily, had yielded promptly to the same plan of treatment. In both instances the patients were kept in bed.—[*Cincinnati Medical News.*

TEA-POULTICE IN ERYSIPELAS.

BY B. G. MCPHAIL, M. D.

Not long since, an accidental circumstance led me to apply a *tea-poultice* to a case of erysipelas of the hand and forearm, and with such happy results that I have since used it in several cases; also, for whitelow and osteitis. In every case, it gave decided satisfaction. It is grateful to the patient, allays pain, and reduces inflammation.

Flax-seed mael, made into a poultice with a strong decoction of *black tea*, is a nice way to apply it, or the decoction may be applied warm, on cloths. My opportunities for using it have been somewhat limited, and do not justify me in speaking too positively of its merits; but having been so much pleased with its action, I am induced to request a trial, by the profession, in the *above affections*, and in *puerperal peritonitis*. Tannin has not given the same results in its pure state.—[*Virginia Medical Monthly.*

TOPICAL APPLICATION IN PAINFUL DENTITION.

R. Syrup of tamarinds..... 2½ drachms.
Infusion of saffron..... 2 scruples.
Honey..... 2½ drachms.
Tinct. (essence) of vanilla..... 4 drops.

Rub gently over the gums with the finger or rag. An application of a similar character is the following:

R. Saffron (powdered)..... 4 to 6 grains.
Honey..... 2 to 3 drachms.

Glycerine may be substituted for the honey.

EVERY individual possesses a surplus of lung capacity. Ordinary occupations call into action but a portion of the capacity of the lungs. This surplus often gradually diminishes from disease, and the person is unconscious of what is taking place. Perchance some day unusual exertion—as quick and continued action is called—demands the use of his lungs to their full capacity: he sinks breathless and exhausted; and for the first time becomes aware of the loss of that which he supposed he possessed.

NEW TREATMENT AND PROPHYLAXIS OF SCARLATINA—IODIDE OF POTASSIUM.

Dr. J. P. Walker, of Mason City, Illinois, says of iodide of potassium, that it appears to possess the most remarkable powers over the whole course and sequelæ of scarlatina, as well as over many other specific diseases. During 1873 and '74, he, with Drs. J. W. Spear and J. H. Walker, saw over 250 cases of all grades of the disease, of which not one died where the method of treatment was adopted at the outset, and very seldom did they have more than the first fully developed case in the same locality. When called to a child one to five years old, with the early signs of the disease, Dr. W. at once bathes the whole body in a warm solution of carbonate of soda, and greases the child—head and feet—with old, salt, bacon grease; also, take potassium iodide, drachm, 1; syr. scillæ, ounces, 2; tinc. verat. virid., drops, 3. M. S. Half-teaspoonful, more or less, according to age, every second hour, until temperature is greatly abated; the doses to be gradually decreased. At the same time, apply a piece of hot, salt, fat pork around the throat, from ear to ear; to be taken off, heated and reapplied every three or four hours; also, gargle as often as possible, equal parts of a saturated solution of common salt, cider vinegar and honey. This practice he has adopted for the past fifteen years, without having had a single case of abscess about the throat, or dropsy, when the treatment was early begun, and properly continued. But in a few cases, so mild as to require the thermometer to detect fever, the treatment was discontinued, in spite of his opposition, and general anasarca ensued; but this yielded readily to iodide of potassium and squills, with chalybeate and vegetable tonics.

While the above treatment is being carried out, Dr. W. orders every one in the family, exposed to the disease, to take, according to age, 3 to 20 grains of iodide of potassium daily, until the desquamation is completed in those cases where the rash has appeared. This he found to act excellently as a prophylactic.

PILLS OF IODIDE OF POTASSIUM.

R. Potassi iodide..... 1½ drachm.
Pulv. althæ..... 1½ drachm.
Syrupi..... q. s. M.
Ft. pil. No. 12.

CHOLERA-MORBUS.

Patients admitted in Roosevelt Hospital with this disease have been uniformly treated by placing them in bed, and administering ipecac, opium, and cinnamon, in small doses. The following is the prescription which has been commonly employed:

R. Ipecac	½ grain.	
Opium	¼ grain.	
Cinnamon	½ grain.	M.

Such a dose is administered every four hours, and, as the symptoms subside, once in eight. The ipecac, however, is gradually increased in quantity to one grain, one grain and a half, etc., until three-grain doses are reached. The intense thirst, which is quite common in this class of cases, is met with pellets of ice chiefly. Two patients were seen. One had passed about a pint of fresh blood early in the attack. Both were convalescing rapidly.

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GRANULAR CITRATE OF MAGNESIA.

A small quantity of finely-pulverized sugar is heated in a pan, over a gentle fire, until it commences to stick, then the following powder is added, the whole well stirred and mixed; and lastly, rubbed through a sieve of the desired size:

Calcined-magnesia	8 parts.
Carbonate of magnesia	4 parts.
Citric-acid, pulverized	26 parts.

Mix. Other salts may be granulated in the same manner.

HAIR TONIC.

R. Adipis	2	ounces.
Ceræ albæ	1	ounce.
Bal. Peruvian	2	drachms.
Tinct. canth	½	drachm.
Olei lavendulæ	6	drops.

Melt the lard and wax together by gentle heat; add the other ingredients, and stir until cold. This preparation has no superior in restoring the growth of the hair.

THE PAIN OF A NEW IDEA.

It is singular how tenaciously the human mind adheres to old ideas and methods of thoughts, and how it suffers when, forced from the olden formulas, it has to appropriate new ideas. "The pain of a new idea" is a real thing, and a very unpleasant one to some persons. It is so comfortable to think but little, and that little according to the traditions of the past. It is so comfortable to nurse old prejudices, and if, in years gone by, something new was learned, to still regard it as the ultimate of human knowledge.

With free discussion comes the knowledge of old errors, and however painful, we are forced to discard them. With free discussion comes new ideas, and though they may be painful to the man who wishes rest, and hopes for a present "millennium," he is forced to absorb them Cut off discussion, and we must stand still, believe in authority, and consign all restless persons to perdition.

Give us free discussion, and the science of medicine must advance; and if we are ever to have a rational practice, it will come in this way. With free discussion errors are removed, as with free discussion investigation is stimulated, new ideas suggested, and both the old and the new thoroughly proven. Though free discussion may be a thing of unrest, it is the hope of humanity.

PRURITUS TREATED WITH VINEGAR.

Dr. Thackeray, of Dakota, writes to the *Medical News*, that he treats the pruritus formicans of pregnancy with cider vinegar, topically applied, and that he has never failed to cure with it. He procured the prescription from the late Professor S. Henry Dickson.—[*Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal.*

CARBOLIC-ACID AS AN ANTHELMINTIC.

A Vienna medical journal states that in a case of tænia, this acid was given at first in doses of six grains, four times a day; but this proving ineffectual, two grains were ordered every hour, with the result of expelling the worm, head and body, on the third day.

CANADA LINIMENT.

Ammonia	Of each one ounce.
Olive oil	
Oil of turpentine	
Alcohol	
Oil of peppermint	½ ounce.

Mix and shake well.

WHY THE TEETH DECAY.

The causes of the decay of teeth have hitherto been a matter of doubt, but the investigations of Leber and Rottenstein throw considerable light on the problem. They recognize constitutional differences in teeth, rendering some more sensitive than others to the influences that favor decay. These influences are not so much internal or vital, as external and chemical. Decay begins at the surface, and there it must be checked, if checked at all. It is chiefly caused by acids, and by a certain fungus, the *leptothrix buccalis*, found abundantly in the mouth. Under the microscope, the fungus appears as a gray, finely-granular mass or matrix, with filaments delicate and stiff, which erect themselves above the surface of this granular substance, so as to resemble an uneven turf. The fungus attains its greatest size in the interstices of the teeth. All acids, both mineral and vegetable, act promptly on the teeth. Various acids are taken with food, or in medicines, or are formed in the mouth itself by some abnormality in our secretions, which should be alkaline, or by an acid fermentation of particles of food. But acids alone will not account for all the phenomena of caries in the teeth. They play a primary and principal part, making the teeth porous and soft. In this state, the tissues having lost their normal consistency, fungi penetrate both the canaliculi of the enamel and of the dentine, and by their growth produce softening and destructive effects much more rapid than the action of acids alone can accomplish. Bowditch, in examining forty persons of different professions, and living different kinds of life, found in almost all of them vegetable and animal parasites. The parasites were abundant in proportion to the neglect of cleanliness. The means ordinarily employed to clean the teeth had no effect on the parasites, while soapy water appeared to destroy them.

We may remark that it is several years since attention was first called to this fungus of the mouth and its possible influence in causing the teeth to decay, but the investigations of Leber and Rottenstein appear to have settled the question beyond a doubt. The "moral" is, that if we would preserve our teeth we must keep them scrupulously clean, and we must use soap as an ingredient in our dentifrices, or in addition to them. It is not necessary to employ any of the so-called "dental soaps." We have found by experience that the imported white castile soap, which is probably the purest soap made in the world—a fact worth remembering in other connections—is quite tasteless, or at least has no unpleasant taste. Rub the wet tooth-brush over a piece of this soap before dipping it into the dentifrice you use, and you have the most perfect combination for thorough cleansing of the teeth and destroying the obnoxious fungus. We assume, of course, that the dentifrice itself is not one that injures the teeth, as many of those in common use do.—[*Journal of Chemistry.*

DEODORIZED COD-LIVER OIL.

The following is Carlo Pavesi's formula:

Cod-liver oil	1,000 parts.
Ground roasted-coffee	50 parts.
Animal-charcoal	25 parts.

Place the ingredients in a flask, which is to be well closed, and digest on a water-bath during the space of one hour; then set it aside for three days, occasionally shaking the contents, and filter. This preparation has a peculiar coffee-flavor, and is quite pleasant to take.

COLD CREAM WITH BORAX.

White wax	1 ounce.
Oil almonds	4 ounces.
Rose-water	2 ounces.
Borax	½ drachm.
Otto of rose	5 drops.

Dissolve the borax in the rose-water and (by the aid of heat) the wax in the oil; while still warm, mix gradually in a mortar, previously warmed; add the otto, stirring constantly.

EYESIGHT.

Perfection of eyesight is essential to our welfare and happiness, and any one who neglects those precautions, upon the observance of which its preservation depends, will find cause for deep repentance in later life. Young men and young women who suffer themselves to fall into the habit of reading by fire-light, or at a window by the waning light of evening, or at a considerable distance from lamps and gas-burners, are guilty of acts for which they must suffer. Parents should promptly interfere to prevent the formation of such dangerous habits.

In the use of glasses, the tendency is towards those which are held in place by a spring pressing upon the nose. This form is convenient, and will do very well for purposes other than for reading or writing, when prolonging use is not required. The nip upon the nose is often painful, and creates uneasiness; and besides, the focus is liable to become disarranged. For these reasons, and others, the glasses held in place by bows passing behind the ears are the best and safest for reading or study. The lenses should be of the best construction, and pure crown-glass affords a material better than "Brazilian" or other "pebbles." Avoid purchasing of any optician who claims that his lenses are constructed of pebbles, or crystal stones. If his claims were not false, he should be distrusted. The frames of spectacles should be of blue steel, light, strong, and perfectly fitted to the wearer. They should be kept perfectly clean, and this should be accomplished by the use of soft wash-leather, and not by linen handkerckiefs, which are apt to scratch the lenses by the small particles of silicious or other hard substances which they hold.—[*Boston Journal of Chemistry.*

CANNABIS-INDICA IN POST-PARTUM HEMORRHAGE.

Dr. W. Donovan (*London Obstetrical Journal*) says that in cases of flooding after delivery, where ergot has failed, a full dose of tincture of cannabis-indica (M. xx.) has in every instance checked the flow in a few moments; it also has the power of controlling and relieving metrorrhagia and profuse menstruation in a marked degree.

MORPHIA IN NEURALGIA.

Mr. Spencer Thompson writes to the *Lancet*, on the subject of neuralgia: "Even phosphorus, we know, will, after a time, lose its power in some obstinate cases of neuralgia—at all events its power of giving rapid relief; and then it is that the invaluable hypodermic administration of morphia comes to our aid. This remedy, and its mode of administration, are too well known to require comment here; but it is far from being as generally employed as it ought to be. This perhaps, is due to various causes; but of these I believe the principal are the means of administration not being always readily available, and the objection of patients to the pain consequent upon the use of coarsely-constructed instruments. The first of these objections I have endeavored to meet by the use of a very portable hypodermic apparatus, inclosed in a metallic case, with ample supply of needles, and the great desideratum, an always moist and efficient piston, and by always carrying a supply of gelatine discs. The second objection is met by the use of very fine steel needles only. The discs, which contain one-sixth of morphia in each, are a very safe and efficient dose for most cases, although in some it may be well to begin with a less amount, and in many it may be advisable to increase the dose considerably, half a grain, or even double that amount. I may here give it as the result of a very large experience in the hypodermic administration of morphia, that concentrated solutions are the rveerse of advantageous. In the first place, they are not so safe as the more dilute; and, in the second, they do not act so quickly and agreeably. The usual strength I employ is one grain of hydrochlorate of morphia in forty minims of water—rarely in thirty. The slight increase of bulk is of no consequence; and in administrations, I can count by the thousand, I have never seen the slightest bad consequence, in the way of abscess or otherwise, result to the patient.

TO REMOVE INK SPOTS.

A concentrated solution of pyrophosphate of soda dissolves the ink without altering the coloring matters fixed upon the fabric.

THE MANAGEMENT OF CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

In the *Peninsular Journal of Medicine*, Dr. J. J. Mulheron remarks: "During the epidemic prevalence of cerebro-spinal meningitis, I noticed that when the cerebral trouble began to abate there was a simultaneous improvement in the abdominal symptoms; and taking the hint from this, I have, for the past two years, adopted a line of treatment, which I have had no reason since to modify. I will not here discuss the occurrence of cerebral complications as a sequel to the abdominal disorders of children, and the *modus in quo* of this occurrence. Suffice it to say, that a neglected or improperly treated diarrhœa is most prone to result in grave cerebral complications; and in the cases we are called to see, these complications have, in the great majority of instances, supervened. What, then, is to be done under such circumstances? At once apply suitable counter-irritation—either mustard or cantharides—to the nape of the neck, and administer a combination of ergot, bromide of potassium and belladonna. If the head-symptoms are very persistent, do not hesitate to apply a bladder filled with pounded ice. This may sound somewhat heroic, but, gentlemen, what is done must be done decisively; be sure you are right in your diagnosis, and go ahead."

THE MANAGEMENT OF ABORTION.

Dr. W. D. Hazzard says, in the Virginia *Medical Monthly*: "On being called to a case threatened with abortion my invariable rule of practice is first to ascertain, as nearly as possible, the stage of the pregnancy, frequency and the extent of the pains, the amount of hemorrhage, the cause, if known, that has induced the symptoms present—whether they be habitual, or accidental, immediately predisposing or exciting. Having elicited all the information I can from the patient or her friends, I then institute an examination per vaginam. If I find the os-uteri dilated and flaccid, with expulsive pain at the menstrual periods, whether attended with hemorrhage or not; if the os be dilated to any considerable size, I regard the case as of a doubtful character and make my prognosis accordingly. But if I find the os-uteri firm and undilated—even if I find hemorrhage attended with

severe pain—I regard the case more favorably; and if the other symptoms warrant the belief that the fœtus be living, I make the effort to save the conception. I endeavor to bring my patient as speedily under the influence of opium as possible. Having done this, I endeavor to keep her under the influence of the drug as long as any symptoms remain of pain or hemorrhage —experience having taught me that many cases may be carried to a favorable termination that under a more temporizing treatment would result in miscarriage. I am thoroughly convinced that many cases of abortion are caused by nervous irritability of the uterus, resulting in an intolerance to the presence of the fœtus in the womb, hence nature endeavors to rid the organ of its contents by expulsive efforts. If this irritability be overcome by the free and full administration of the sedatives and narcotics, the pregnancy may often be saved.

I do not think authorities have laid stress enough on the importance of thorough investigations in such cases as I have spoken of, to enable the practitioner to make a clear diagnosis; neither do I think they attach sufficient importance to the wonderful powers of opium, administered with the view of procuring its full effect. In my hands, it has seldom disappointed my expectations.

NATURE IN DELIRIUM-TREMENS.

Dr. Van de Walker believes (*New York Medical Journal*), that opiates, stimulants, and narcotics generally do harm in the treatment of delirium-tremens, and that the proper plan is to provide for the nutrition of the impoverished brain and nerve-centres by the free administration of food which can be easily digested and assimilated. Beef-tea, raw eggs, and milk, with attention to the condition of the bowels, have given him very satisfactory results.

HALF a grain of chromic-acid, dissolved in a fluid ounce of water, has given excellent results as a local application in ozœna and in gonorrhœa.

A GENERAL ANTIDOTE.

J. Jeannel recommends the following as an antidote for arsenic, which should be kept constantly prepared by druggists:

Persulphate of iron solution (density = 1,450)...	100 parts.
Water	800 "
Calcined-magnesia	80 "
Animal-charcoal	40 "

The iron solution should be kept in a separate bottle from the mixture of the three substances, and should be mixed with it just before using.

This mixture acts as a perfect antidote for arsenic, and is preferable to the ferric hydrate, because the latter deteriorates upon keeping. It also acts as a perfect antidote for compounds of zinc and digitalin, and nearly neutralizes the action of compounds of copper. It delays considerably the action of the salts of morphia and strychnia, and to a slight extent that of the compounds of mercury. It has no effect whatever in counteracting the action of the cyanide of mercury, tartar-emetic, hydrocyanic-acid, phosphorus, and the caustic alkalies.

A freshly-prepared mixture of the sulphide of iron, magnesia, and sulphate of sodium acts as a perfect antidote for compounds of copper, corrosive-sublimate, and the cyanide of mercury.

REMOVAL OF FOREIGN BODIES FROM THE EAR.

Let the surgeon take six inches, or as much as he pleases—it is always handy, and plenty of it—of horse-hair; double it into a loop; then having the patient placed on his side, pass the loop into the ear as far as it will go; turn it gently, and at first or second withdrawal the foreign body will come out in the loop. It gives no pain, and cannot do damage.—[*The Clinic.*

A NEW MUCILAGE.

The *Journal de Pharmacie* states that if to a strong solution of gum-arabic, measuring 8⅓ fluid ounces, a solution of 30 grains of sulphate of aluminium, dissolved in ⅔ of an ounce of water, be added, a very strong mucilage is formed, capable of fastening wood together, or of mending porcelain or glass.

CURRY-POWDER.

The London *Chemist and Druggist* says: "We had the following recipe from a native Indian, and we believe it to yield a fine product. The powders must be fresh and of the best quality:

Coriander, fresh seed, roasted but not burnt, and finely powdered	2	pounds.
Turmeric, fresh root, ditto, ditto	¾	pound.
Fenugreek, fresh seed, ditto, ditto	8	ounces.
Mnstard-seed, ditto, ditto	8	ounces.
Cummin-seed, ditto, ditto	¾	pound.

"To this add cayenne-pepper according to taste."

COLOR.

In color, we find important indications of disease. A really healthy color is clear and bright, not red, not necessarily florid, but clear and transparent; the pride of those few people who possess them. Any departure from this standard is an indication of ill-health.

The muddy complexion is the most frequently found. It has an indescribable hue; looks dirty and greasy, and indicates just such a condition of the blood and tissues. It exists in countless numbers of cases where the parties are in their *usual* health, or rather ill-health. It is not in itself a serious symptom, and is easily removed. It indicates usually a congested liver, with torpid skin. If the sclerotic of the eye is of a yellowish tinge, the liver is largely at fault; if the complexion is of a brownish hue, stomach and bowels, and perhaps, kidneys, are involved.

But the disease is general rather than local. It is essentially one of impurity. The blood and tissues have become foul because of failure in the actions of the organs of excretion, and they must become purified by restoring this action.

The pale complexion always indicates debility. It shows a poor circulation in the surface, and hence poor nutrition. It is not necessarily a serious symptom of disease, for it is found in many persons who do not claim to be invalids.

The pale but clear complexion belongs to persons who are slightly debilitated, because of in-door or sedentary habits, but who are not actually diseased. What they need to restore strength and vigor is chiefly out-door exercise.

The bluish-pale complexion belongs often to consumptives, and is not an encouraging symptom when connected with cough, emaciation, expectoration, etc.

The yellowish-pale complexion indicates primarily a torpid liver, but dropsy, kidney-disease, dyspepsia, consumption, or the like may be connected with it.

The treatment in such cases must be as broad and comprehensive as the disease is general; and it should be treatment of the patient, and not simply treatment of the disease; the constitution is to be built up, nutrition increased, circulation improved, strength evolved. When nutrition is improved, it is wonderful how readily the complexion clears out, and bright eye, clear skin, active mind, and hopeful expression takes the place of dullness, gloom, and hypo.

PERUVIAN BARK IN SORE THROAT.

Dr. Holden recommends the following formula as exceedingly efficacious in diphtheritic, scarlatina, and other forms of sore throat:

R. Corticis peruvianæ flav.....2 drachms.
Acaciæ pulv.....1 drachm.
Sacch. alb.....½ drachm.

S. Mix one-half of this powder in a tablespoonful of cream, and apply frequently with a camel's hair-brush.

FORMULA FOR THE TROUBLESOME COUGH OF PHTHISIS.

R. Potassii bromidi.....
Potassæ chloratis..... } Of each 1½ drachm.
Ammoniæ muriatis.....
Syrup tolutani..... 4 ounces. M.

Tablespoonful every two or three hours.

R. Tincturæ opii camphoratæ..... 1 ounce.
Tincturæ belladonnæ..... 1 drachm.
Tincturæ hyoscyami..... 2 drachms.
Spiritus lavendulæ comp..... 1 drachm. M.

Ten drops on a lump of loaf-sugar every hour until cough is relieved.
—[*Charity Hospital, New York.*

CONSUMPTION.

CHICAGO, January 29, 1876.

DR. LAWRENCE—*Dear Sir:* Knowing that "consumption" is *your specialty*, and that you have had large experience in its treatment, is my excuse for asking you to tell me, through the BRIEF, what *I should do* for the following case? also, what climate would you recommend? By replying to above queries, through your journal, you will greatly oblige,

Yours, truly, ——— ———, M. D.

CASE.

Mr. K., aged 27, light hair, blue eyes, and clear complexion; usual weight, 150. About one year ago had slight hemorrhage, *not preceded* by cough. Says he had a slight, *dry*, hacking cough every morning since, until two weeks ago, when he had another hemorrhage, followed by increased cough and expectoration. On examination, I note following signs: Left side, dullness on percussion at summit, with bronchial breathing and moist rales; weight now, 140, ten pounds *less* than usual; appetite and digestion good. Cod-liver oil and pancreatic emulsions both disagree with his stomach; can't take them. Is the prognosis necessarily unfavorable?

ANSWER.

I would suggest to M. D. to give his patient 15 to 25 drops of fluid extract corydalis three or four times a day (in a drink of good whisky), alternated with *green root*, tinct. stillingia, ampelopsis, and other vegetable alteratives, in *small doses*; would also recommend daily sponge-bath, generous diet (the patient following the dictates of his own taste and appetite), and out-of-door life. Moderate exercise does *great good;* over-exercise, leading to fatigue and exhaustion, does *great harm*. For night-sweats, give oxide zinc, in two or three-grain doses, at night, alternated with hamamelis or lycopus.

Do not allow your patient to take any cough mixtures. Consumptive patients always make the mistake of trying to get their cough stopped—not knowing that cough is Nature's most powerful attempt at recovery—it is the means of removing diseased portions of the lungs, and if the cough is stopped *for a time* by the use of narcotics, it forces secondary tubercles, *and thus*

hastens and settles the doom of the patient. For daily paroxysms of fever, give salicine, quinia, or hydrastin. My experience is decidedly in favor of salicine. The hypophosphites, mineral acids, etc., may be used when indicated. The remedies which will best impart tone to the digestive organs, and improve the general health, *must necessarily vary* with the condition of the patient. In this disease, as in all others, the value of a remedy depends *less* upon its intrinsic properties *than upon its adaptation to the requirements of the patient at the time of its administration.*

The prognosis of the case *is not necessarily unfavorable*, provided your patient fully appreciates his disease, and is determined to overcome it by prudence, patience and perseverance. It is a fact, well-attested, that those persons who get well of consumption, are nearly always those noted for their strong resolution, good common sense, and large hope. In answer to the question of climate, I can only say that no one climate is best for all persons. Even some healthy persons suffer intensely in a cold climate, and feel better, and are much stronger in a warm climate; while others get bilious, and run down in a warm climate, who feel better, get stronger, and are braced up in a cold climate. Each person must judge for himself, if he is obliged to take either extreme. *A medium climate* would probably come nearer suiting all persons, as it is well known that in warm climates, the deadliest seasons *are those of great heat;* in cold climates, the deadliest *are those of great cold.* As a good medium climate, therefore, I should think that Charlotte, North Carolina, would best suit the majority of consumptive invalids; Asheville, N. C., and Aiken, S. C., are also good points.

FOR BURNS.

R. Glycerine ..... 5 ounces.
White of egg ..... 4 ounces.
Tincture of arnica ..... 3 ounces.

Mix the glycerine and white of egg intimately in a mortar, and then add gradually the arnica. Apply freely on linen cloths night and morning, having previously washed the burn with warm castile soap-suds.

SPECIALISM IN MEDICINE.

The Paris correspondent of the *British Medical Journal* says, in a recent letter:

"Notwithstanding all that has been said and written on both sides of the channel, in disparagement of specialism in medicine, specialists, in France at least, are, whatever be the motives of the parties referred to, daily on the increase; and, as mentioned in one of my last letters, we have the approval of specialties by no less an authority than M. Depaul, Clinical Professor of Obstetrical Medicine and Surgery of the Faculty of Paris, who, in the introduction to the first number of the journal recently founded by him, sets himself up as an apologist for specialists, and declares that it is almost impossible for any man to be an 'encyclopædist.'"

This is eminently true; and there can be no question but that he who devotes himself to one limited territory of science can explore it more thoroughly than he who wanders over the whole realm of medicine.

The opposition to specialism arose largely from the notion that it meant ignorance of other branches, as great in proportion as it gave knowledge in the one. This is a mistake. The real specialist appreciates too well the numberless harmonies and secret sympathies of the economy, to overlook or underrate the value of a broad and thorough knowledge of all its parts, functions and lesions. He will embrace all this in his ken, but bend this knowledge to one point, and upon one focus.

That a school will ultimately be demanded, where graduates from our colleges can have the opportunity to perfect themselves in one or the other branches, is obvious: and the more pertinent inquiry is, has that time arrived?

WORMS.

Symptoms—Tumid abdomen, broad, coated tongue, full lips, dull eyes, languor, impaired appetite, restless nights.

Remedy—R. podophyllin, one grain; santonine, ten grains; white sugar, one ounce; to be thoroughly triturated, and divided in twenty powders, of which one may be given morning and night.

PILLS OF SULPHATE OF QUINIA.

Take of sulphate of quinia	600 grains.
Tartaric-acid	100 grains.
Glycerine, pure	75 minims.

Rub the quinia and acid together in a mortar to a fine powder, till no appearance of crystal remains; add the glycerine—just 75 minims, no more nor less—and continue the trituration till the powder becomes adherent, when it should be beaten into proper form for handling, and divided into the required number of pills. The mass is firm, solid, rolls well, does not set for some hours; is, in fact, a "beautiful mass," and the pills will be found quite small for their weight, very white, if rolled in starch-powder, and however old or dry they may become, they remain perfectly and entirely soluble.—[*American Journal of Pharmacy.*

WHOOPING-COUGH.

Dr. Wilde claims that he can cure every case of whooping-cough within eight days, by the following mode of treatment:

The patient should be kept in-door to avoid exposure to cold. Then, at the commencement of every paroxysm, a teaspoonful of the following mixture:

R. Chloroformi	1 ounce.
Æther, sulphur	2 ounces.
Ol. terebinth	3 ounces.

M. Is poured on a cloth and held about two inches from the mouth of the patient until the paroxysm subsides.—[*Medical Exchange.*

ANTALGIC PROPERTIES OF ESSENCE OF MINT.

Dr. Delioux de Savignac announces that the essence of mint, applied externally to a part affected with neuralgia, will completely relieve the pain. The Chinese made this discovery years, perhaps centuries, ago. We have repeatedly used the oil of peppermint, applied locally, for neuralgic and rheumatic pains and for migraine, and found it to be an excellent anæsthetic, affording often prompt relief.—*L'Union Médicale.*

TREATMENT OF DIPHTHERIA.

Dr. Smith, of New York, reports unusually favorable results in diphtheria: The mode of treatment employed, and by which the author, in his private practice, has saved a much larger proportion of cases than he had been able to cure by any other measures which he had previously employed, was the following: As soon as the case comes under observation, the following mixture is applied, every second or third hour, over the fauces, by one or two applications of a large camel hair-pencil:

R. Acidi carbolici..... 6 to 10 drops.
Liquoris ferri subsulphatis..... 3 drachms.
Glycerine..... 1 ounce. M.

If there is any discharge from the nostrils, indicating diphtheretic inflammation of the schneiderian membrane, a little of the same mixture, diluted with an equal quantity of warm water, is injected into each nostril every three to six hours. To do this, the child is placed upon its back, with the head thrown backward and the eyes covered with a towel, to prevent the liquid from entering them. A small glass ear or nostril-syringe, with a knob, or button, at the end of the nozzle, is the best form of instrument for these injections.

One-third to one-half of a teaspoonful of the diluted mixture is a sufficient quantity to employ for each nostril. This application, properly made, prevents decomposition, removes the offensive odor, and, that which is of the greatest importance, prevents blood-poisoning; it immediately arrests the movements of the bacteria, and probably destroys them, as the author has observed in experiments with the microscope.

Quinine in doses of one to two grains, according to the age of the patient and severity of the case, is administered about every fourth hour, and each hour in the interval, half a teaspoonful to one teaspoonful of the following:

R. Potassæ chloratis..... 2 drachms.
Tincturæ ferri chloridi..... 1 drachm.
Syrupi simplicis..... 4 ounces.

A little chlorine is set free in the above mixture, and the quantity may be increased by adding a few drops of dilute muriatic-acid. No drinks are to be allowed for a few minutes after its administration, or after the use of the brush; by this precaution, the lotion is not washed away too quickly from the fauces.

In three or four days, if the case progresses favorably, these remedies are employed less frequently, but they are continued until not only the pseudo-membrane has disappeared, but the inflammation also has in a great part abated. When the inflammation has begun to abate, and there is no reappearance of the exudation, a gargle or drink of chlorate of potash is given.

THE SILICATE OF POTASSIUM IN THE TREATMENT OF ERYSIPELAS.

Professor Alvarenga, of Lisbon, has employed a solution of silicate of potassium in one hundred and forty-eight cases of erysipelas with marked success. He asserts that by this means alone, without the employment of any internal adjuvant, it is possible to attain a cure in almost every case in from four to seven days. He was led to the employment of this remedy by observing that its application to the healthy skin was followed immediately by a sensation of coolness and retraction; the skin blanched, and the thermometer showed that there was an actual diminution of temperature, lasting from five minutes to an hour. These phenomena were more marked in proportion to the concentration of the solution which was used. In the cases of erysipelas, the maximum lowering of temperature was 5.1 deg., and the minimum 0.1 deg.; the effect being greater in strong and vigorous individuals than in those weakened by disease. He believes, after careful comparison with every other mode of treatment, that erysipelas can be cured more certainly, quickly, and safely by the topical application of silicate of potassium, *liqueur de cailloux*, than in any other way.—[*La France Medicale.*

ERGOT IN DYSENTERY.

A French physician claims to have succeeded in the treatment of epidemic dysentery by the use of ergot. He gave seven or eight grains every four hours; the cure being effected in ordinary cases in two or three days. After a few doses, constipation is produced, which lasts three or four days. Ergot has the same effect.

SALICYLATE OF SODA.

Dr. Riess has used this salt with more than four hundred patients, and speaks very highly of it as a reducing, abnormal temperature, with great certainty, in doses of five grammes, and in children of six to twelve years, in doses of 2.5 grammes of the acid. In contradiction to others, Dr. Riess did not observe any influence on the pulse. Even in two hundred and sixty cases of typhoid fever, in which the decrease of temperature was most marked, more so than in the healthy subject, no important effect on the pulse was noted. Frequently, however, profuse perspiration followed in one or two hours, often a quarter or half an hour after the full dose, coinciding generally, but not always, with a rapid decrease of the body-heat. Cold-baths (15 to 20 degs. centigrade) strengthened the effect of a single dose in the same way as if repeated doses had been given. The anti-pyretic effect of the drug appeared to be in reverse proportion to the fatality of the cases; and though the mortality was sixty-three in two hundred and sixty, or 24.2 per cent., Dr. Riess contends that the convalescent patients had derived marked and early improvement from the effected decrease of temperature. Generally unpleasant accompanying effects have not been observed; sometimes slight affection of the head, tinnitus aurium, and dimness of sight occur after the full dose; vomiting is very exceptional, and never caused the use of the drug to be discontinued. No burning sensation is felt, with the watery solution of the salt, in the mouth or pharynx.—[*The Lancet.*

COMPOUND LIQUORICE-POWDER.

This is an excellent laxative, in doses of one or two teaspoonfuls at bedtime, with half a glass of water. It is officinal in the German Pharmacopœia:

(BRUSTPULVER.)

Senna, powdered	2 ounces.
Liqnorice-root, powdered	2 ounces.
Fennel-seed	1 ounce.
Washed sulphur flowers	1 ounce.
White sugar, powdered	2 ounces.

Mix them.

THE TREATMENT OF ACUTE ORCHITIS BY PUNCTURE OF THE TESTIS.

Mr. Henry Smith has punctured the testicle in over a thousand cases of acute orchitis, and has had the most favorable results, the relief from pain being almost instantaneous, and no bad consequences following. He attributes the sudden relief to the circumstance that the unyielding tunica albuginea is freely incised, and that the tension is thus taken off the swollen and compressed testis; in some instances, there is more or less serum effused into the cavity of the tunica vaginalis, and the withdrawal of this greatly assists in giving ease. As a general rule, the puncture is productive of so much relief to pain that no other treatment is required, except to support the part, and occasionally to use compression by strapping—a measure well calculated to diminish the swelling, which is scarcely at all reduced by the puncture, and the persistence of which annoys the patient.—[*The Lancet.*

GONORRHŒA.

Niemyer's prescription will cure forty-nine out of fifty cases, and cure them in a reasonable time, and without unpleasantness and danger. Even if it should take six weeks, it is better than copaiba and cubebs. And the prescription is: R. tannic acid, one drachm; claret wine, six ounces; M. Use as an injection, twice daily. The prescription should be made with wine as directed, and not with stuff concocted by liquor-dealers.—*E. M. Journal.*

If *volatile oils* are ordered in pill-mass, physicians must expect the pills to be larger than when it is omitted, as a *dry powder* is always necessary to absorb it, and then a large amount of excipient must afterwards be added to form the mass—[*Clinton Record.*

The oxyuris vermicularis, or seat-worm, may be readily dislodged from its favorite habitat in the rectum, by the injection of two to three ounces of ol. morrhuæ, repeated once or twice.

NITRIC-ACID AS A CAUSTIC.

Dr. James Braithwaite calls attention to the great value of nitric-acid as a caustic in uterine practice. The action of nitrate of silver is too fugitive in its nature. Its influence seldom extends beyond five or six days. It is really a stimulant rather than a caustic, and, as such, frequently causes more or less hemorrhage. Its action is very superficial, and therefore, as a caustic, very imperfect. The use of potassa-cum-calce is often followed by serious results, owing to its spreading to neighboring parts, and to the great depth to which its caustic action extends. The salts of mercury are liable to be followed by symptoms which affect the whole system.

Nitric-acid, however, has none of these disadvantages. It is an agent always at hand; its use produces little if any pain, and no hemorrhage. The eschar made by it separates very slowly, and the resulting sore is one which shows a great tendency to heal. The fresh mucous-membrane is not cicatricial in appearance, and, when healing is going on satisfactorily, has a sharply-defined edge. The contraction is greater than that which follows the use of any other caustic, and by this very contraction of the formerly relaxed tissues a permanent cure is often effected. The acid should be applied by means of a small and tightly-rolled piece of cotton-wool. It should never be applied within the cervical-canal unless that canal is open. In a series of over forty cases, the results obtained by the use of this agent far exceeded those which followed the use of any other caustic.

Dr. Cook says, to throw out a practical suggestion, if the skin be so dry and harsh that perspiration is deficient, oil the person thoroughly from head to foot, and it will cool his fever. Take a patient, whether old or young, with typhoid fever, if you please: he has rested badly all night; has tossed from one side of the bed to the other; has dreamed about all sorts of frightful things; has had short naps, which fail to refresh; has, in a measure, become worn-out, peevish and fretful. Now just anoint him well with lard or glycerine, and, our word for it, he will thank you to the latest day he lives. He will rest; he will feel better; he will sleep; he will be calm; and he will likely improve in every respect.

BROMIDE OF CAMPHOR.

Numerous facts, observed by foreign and French physicians in hospitals or in private practice, show most evidently that bromide of camphor exerts a sedative action on the nervous system, and that it will be of great service in the treatment of nervous disorders which accompany affections of the respiratory organs, of the heart and of the uro-genital organs.

Heretofore it has been impossible to prepare a syrup of bromide of camphor, and the preparations which have constantly been employed by French physicians in the treatment of the cases mentioned in this article are Dr. Clin's capsules and dragees. They are most carefully prepared. The capsules contain each four grains, and the dragees two grains of bromide of camphor. The consequence of this is, that the physician can, with security, graduate the doses according to circumstances. According to Dr. Pathault, they may be used indistinctively, but when prescribed in large doses the use of the capsules will be found preferable, especially as they are small, and are covered with a thin coating of gluten which dissolves rapidly in the stomach.

LAXATIVE TROCHES.

We subjoin two formulæ; the first is given by Pierquin, and the second by Delvincourt:

LAXATIVE PASTILLES.

Scammony	3 ounces.
Cream of tartar	4 drachms.
Sugar, in powder	8 ounces.
Oil of cinnamon	4 drops.
Mucilage of tragacanth, sufficient.	

Divide into one hundred and twenty troches. Dose, one to two in the morning.

PURGATIVE PASTILLES.

Scammony	6 grains.
Ticture of senna	40 drops.
Carbonate of magnesia	5 scruples.
Powdered sugar	8 scruples.
Powdered licorice	8 grains.
Powdered gum-tragacanth	5 grains.
Oil of anise	1 drop.
Syrup of violets, sufficient.	

Divide into eight troches. Dose, one to two every morning.

TREATMENT OF TAPE-WORM BY CREOSOTE.

Mr. Brickwell states that about fifteen years ago, a man, discharged from the army with lung-disease and tape-worm, came under his notice, when it appeared to him that the destructive properties of creosote to the lower grades of animal-life might be made available for killing, or so weakening the vitality of intestinal worms, that they could easily be got rid of. He therefore gave him some three times a day, shortly after meals, for six days, and on the seventh a dose of castor-oil and turpentine, which brought away a worm twelve yards long. He has since tried creosote for destroying round-worms with great success. In one case, a large mass of more than a hundred worms, of all sizes, came away, and the patient has not been further troubled by them. He has not succeeded so well with the troublesome thread-worms of adults, but has some doubts if the remedy were fairly tried.—[*Medical Times and Gazette.*

INJURY TO THE TONGUE.

Dr. Monmonier was called in consultation with Dr. Leibman to a man who, during an attack of *delirium-tremens*, bit his tongue, the bite extending nearly through that organ, and severing the lingual arteries. Profuse hemorrhage ensued, and styptics, ice, and the actual cautery were tried without avail. The galvano-cautery not being at hand, ligatures were passed through the tongue on each side of the injury, with the effect of arresting the hemorrhage. Except slight glossitis, the wound healed without any trouble.

LOTIONS FOR FRECKLES.

The following are both good and harmless cosmetics:

(1)	Borax	3 grains.
	Rose-water	5 drachms.
	Orange-flower-water	5 drachms.
(2)	Orange-flower-water	1 pint.
	Glycerine	1 ounce.
	Borax	1 drachm.

INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTIONS.

Dr. Robert Battey strongly urges the persistent use of distensile enemata in cases of intestinal obstruction. He protests against the injunction contained in "Flint's Practice," that "the injections are not to be pushed beyond the point at which they are borne without much suffering," and calls in question the statement that "they will very rarely succeed after the invaginated portion of the intestine has become swollen by congestion, and the peritoneal surfaces in contact have become adherent." He details successful cases in which twenty and twenty-five pints of fluid were injected until it had passed through the entire length of the alimentary canal and flowed from the mouth, and believes that in *every case* of intestinal obstruction, either feared, suspected, or known to exist, when their duration does not raise a well-grounded apprehension of gangrene, an anodyne having been premised, "a distensile enema ought to be the *first*, and for the most part need be the *only*, power invoked for the cure.—[*Atlanta Medical and Surgical Journal.*

LIME-WATER IN INFANTILE ECZEMA.

A writer in the *Bulletin de Therapeutique* recommends lime-water in eczema of the head and impetigo of the face in children, especially chronic cases, which have resisted other treatment, and states that a marked improvement is noticeable after it for eight days. It is to be taken in quantities varying up to half a pint, according to age of patient, and to dust the part with carbonate of magnesia; but the latter is only necessary when the secretion is very irritant.

THE United States' Pharmacopœia gives two processes for making dilute phosphoric acid; the first orders it made directly from phosphorus, the second from glacial phosphoric acid. Experiments have proven that the acid made by the later process is unsatisfactory. If it be mixed with tincture of chloride of iron, a precipitate of pyrophosphate of iron will be produced, giving the mixture a milky appearance.—[*Clinton Record.*

LOCAL APPLICATION OF CHLORAL-HYDRATE IN PRURITUS VULVÆ.

In *La Tribune Medicale*, a very interesting case of pruritus of the vulvæ is reported, which was treated by the local application of chloral-hydrate. The patient, a young lady, whose age is not stated, had suffered for years from violent attacks of hysteria. Her menstrual flow had ceased, but each time, when it should have appeared, she suffered from a sanguinolent salivation. On inquiry, Dr. Gelle, who reports the case, learned that she had suffered for some time from pruritus of the vulvæ, which was so severe as to necessitate her rising several times during the night to bathe in cold water. Dr. G., believing that the suppression of the menses (in the normal manner, at least) was due to the cold bathing, to which the young lady was obliged to resort, addressed his treatment directly to the pruritus of the vulvæ. He had recourse to chloral; a solution of ten grammes of chloral-hydrate in one thousand grammes of water being employed as a wash several times a day. Besides this, a tampon of wadding, soaked in the mixture, was placed between the labia. Under the influence of this treatment, so simple and so strictly local, the itching immediately became less, and gradually became so slight as to permit sound and continued rest. In the course of five days, the pruritus had entirely disappeared.

GASTRIC ULCER.

Dr. Flint says, this woman has gastric ulcer, and has had for more than a year. She has pain after eating, and about half an hour after swallowing food she vomits, which gives relief, and "makes her very comfortable." There is pain at the epigastrum, which, in this instance, is not circumscribed, as we should expect to see it in ulcer of the stomach. The pain is "gnawing" in character, and is diminished when she lies on the left side, or on her face; hence, the ulcer is in the right postero-lateral region of the stomach. As to food, she states that milk and eggs are least painful, but that spirits and stimulating articles cause great pain, so that she cannot take them. She has lost strength and become emaciated, her bowels are costive, and her menstruation is interrupted. There is another point which confirms the diagnosis of gastric ulcer: she has vomited blood.

This case is a typical one, except in regard to the pain not being circumscribed, for, as stated, the pain and tenderness are referred to a larger area than is usual.

Nitrate of silver and sulphate of copper have been recommended in gastric ulcer, because their local effects on ulcers of the surface is beneficial; but it is absurd to suppose that enough can be given by the stomach to produce a stimulating effect sufficient to cause cicatrization of the ulcer.

Probably the best treatment which has been advanced is to give the stomach complete rest. This is done by employing rectal alimentation, which is, of course, unattended with danger, and can be discontinued if the rectum becomes irritable. The proper articles to use are milk, gruels and concentrated fluids of every description.

CHRONIC INVERSION OF THE UTERUS SUCCESSFULLY TREATED BY PERSISTENT MECHANICAL PRESSURE.

Dr. Tarbell reports a case of a woman, æt. 37, who suffered from an inversion of the uterus, which had occurred after the delivery of her first child, and had persisted for ten months, resisting all attempts at forcible reduction. An apparatus was then applied, which consisted of a flexible rubber cup, of about the size of a half-lemon, and with a straight and inflexible stem eight inches long. The cup was applied to the inverted fundus, and the end of the stem, projecting some distance from the vagina, was attached by straps, one over the pubes and one over the sacrum, to a belt fastened around the waist. The crest of the ilium of course kept this belt from being dragged downward; and by buckling the two straps tighter or more loosely, the direction and amount of the force applied could easily be regulated. Both straps were buckled tightly, and the patient was kept upon her back in bed.

In consequence of a chill, with subsequent fever and some tenderness of the abdomen, it was necessary to remove the pessary on the second day; but in four or five days these symptoms subsided. The pessary—*i. e.*, the cup with the stem—was now reinserted, and the straps tightened so as to produce constant firm pressure upward against the whole fundus. On the third day, the os seemed to have yielded so as to allow a

small portion of the cervix to resume its normal position. On the seventh day, the uterus was reinverted one-half, so that the fundus was at a level with the os. The cup was then cut off, leaving only its base, a flat surface three-fourths of an inch in diameter, to be applied to the fundus. On the eighth day, this was found to have passed one and one-half inches up within the cervix, pushing the fundus before it, and on the ninth day of the continuous pressure, the inversion was completely reduced, the sound passing three inches above the os. Three months and a half later the woman was examined, and was found to be in a perfectly normal condition.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

POISONING BY CHLORAL—STRYCHNIA AS AN ANTIDOTE—RECOVERY.

Dr. Levenstein reports the following case (*Centralbl. f. Med. Wissen*): A man who had taken about six drachms of chloral was found half an hour afterwards in deep sleep, but without threatening symptoms. A little later, however, tumultuous action of the heart, with difficult and interrupted respiration, set in; and later still the action of the heart became greatly enfeebled, so that, even in the carotids, scarcely any pulse was discernible. The pupils were greatly contracted, and the temperature sank to 91.2 deg.

Artificial respiration, by passive movement and faradization, proving of no avail, one-twenty-second of a grain of strychnia was administered hypodermically. Convulsive movements of the muscles almost immediately ensued, and soon after trismus; the cardiac movement again became perceptible, the pupils dilated, and the temperature rose to 92 deg. Shortly after, the former threatening symptoms appearing once more, a second injection of strychnia, to the amount of one-thirty-second of a grain, was administered. The effect of this was similar to that of the first, the temperature rising to normal; but artificial respiration had to be kept up for eight hours. Trismus and tetanic spasm remained for fourteen hours after the second injection; but at the end of the thirty-two hours, the patient awoke feeling fresh and well. No gastritis followed the ingestion of the chloral, probably because the patient's stomach contained food at the time.

COLD WATER.

Dr. Cook, in Virginia *Medical Monthly*, says: "Because we have, in the last few years, discovered special medicines that will control the calibre of the cerebral blood-vessels, and so reducing the treatment of many diseases of the brain to a rational basis, we should not, therefore, stop here; but go forward in the vegetable and mineral kingdoms in search of other medicines that will specially constringe the pulmonary blood-vessels, as well as others in different organs of the body. While therapeutics is somewhat limited in this respect, yet ergot possesses general properties in this way, and would, therefore, be indicated in all acute inflammation in the congestive stage before exudation, as well as in essential fevers, with the object in view of diminishing the capacity of the capillary circulation. Quinine, in large doses, must act in the same way, through nervous influence; thus, it becomes a potent drug as a sedative, arrests inflammation, and cools fever. Cold water, too, is an auxiliary in the form of baths, effusion, or wet sheets, to reduce preternatural heat. Here it has a double influence: First, it contracts the capillaries most speedily, thoroughly and effectually; secondly, it directly abstracts heat from the over-heated body, and so prevents destructive changes. And for this purpose patients may be kept in tepid or cold water many hours during an attack of typhoid, scarlet, or other fevers. This practice is quite in vogue now in Germany, and we think the plan full of comforts, of utility, of wisdom, of science, and of good results. It allays excitement, it reduces fever, it soothes pain, quiets restlessness, and makes way for recovery. What wonderful success has followed this practice. Brand, of Stettin, Germany, cured one hundred and seventy cases of typhus fever in succession with it. Over sixty patients with typhoid fever have been saved recently in Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York, with a loss of but a single one. Yet, with all this evidence, many men cannot believe. They will live and die blind."

SALT OF LEMON.

Powdered oxalic-acid..... 4 drachms.
Powdered cream of tartar..... 1 drachm.

Mix. Add one drop of oil of lemon to perfume.

CHLOROFORM IN THE TREATMENT OF HÆMOPTYSIS.

Dr. Alex. Weir reports a case of hæmoptysis occurring in a man, æt. 40, having extensive tubercular disease of the right lung, in which ice, turpentine, ergot, heat, and mustard, to the extremities, etc., having entirely failed to stop the hemorrhage, and the patient being in a sinking condition, he had recourse to the local use of chloroform. A flannel pad was made, corresponding to the site of the hemorrhage, two ounces of chloroform were poured upon it, and it was applied immediately to the chest, towels being superimposed to prevent evaporation. The effect was instantaneous, the cough and hemorrhage ceased at once, and there was no immediate recurrence of either. At the same time of this occurrence the patient was under the influence of liquor. Soon after, he committed another alcoholic excess, and died from the resulting hæmoptysis, before professional attendance could be obtained. Dr. Weir questions whether the chloroform acted by relaxing the cutaneous circulation, so as to diffuse the blood more equally, and thus relieve the internal congestion and afford time for the formation of clots, or by its direct counter-irritant effects. He is himself inclined to hold the former view.—[*The Lancet.*

TO POLISH TINTS.

First rub your tints with a damp cloth; then take dry flour and rub it on with your hands; afterwards take an old newspaper and rub the flour off, and the tints will shine as well as if half an hour had been spent rubbing them with brick-dust or powder, which spoils the hands.

TO PREVENT MARKS OF SMALL-POX.

Touch the pustules with glycerine, and then sprinkle with a powder of red oxyd of mercury, one part, sublimed sulphur, four parts. An Italian physician says that this will cause the pustules to dry and desquamate in a few days, without leaving the slightest mark—[*Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal.*

PRESERVATION OF MORPHIA SOLUTIONS.

It is asserted by M. Vidal, that the addition of chloral to a solution of morphia renders it much less liable to spontaneous change. This fact, if it be true, is important. The alteration which concentrated solutions of morphia undergo renders their strength variable and uncertain, if they are laid by for a time. M. Vidal adds to the solution a quantity of chloral equivalent to twice the weight of the morphia it contains. He affirms that the injection of this mixture is not painful.

SALICYLIC ACID FOR FOUL BREATH AND OFFENSIVE EXPECTORATION.

DR. DA COSTA.

This patient is brought before you to show you that there is destruction of pulmonary structure, and to call your attention to the fact that the peculiar bad odor belonging to the breath and the expectoration, where there is breaking down of the lung or pulmonary abscess, is absent in this case now, although it was previously a very noticeable symptom. Being struck with the foulness of the patient's breath, which was so offensive as to discourage physical examination of the chest, I determined to try salicylic acid. The dose given was five grains, dissolved in half an ounce of water, with the aid of a drachm of glycerine. This was exhibited three times a day, with the effect of purifying the respiration, and improving the character of the expectoration, although upon the latter the influence has not been quite so well marked.

If in salicylic acid we have an agreeable and harmless remedy against foul breath, and one that will also exercise a detergent effect on the character of offensive secretions, you will see at once that a long-felt want is supplied. In gangrene of the lung, for instance, the characteristic breath poisons the patient, and renders his presence insupportable to those around him; if salicylic acid will change this, as it has done in the case before us, a not unimportant application of this comparatively new agent is presented. If internal administration does not accomplish the desired result, it can be used in the atomizer in the

solution before mentioned, (grains x to water 1 oz., with sufficient glycerine to make it soluble). About eighteen months ago, I first used it as a deodorizer, in a woman with stomach-disorder, accompanied by very offensive breath, and with the happiest results. In cases of indigestion, with bad breath, I have used it a number of times since, with great success. This is a legitimate application of this disinfectant; and other similar conditions will suggest themselves to you, as in fetid bronchitis, in abscess, or in cancer of the lung, with offensive discharges, where it will prove of great value. My experience with the agent, on the whole, is, that, in these complaints, it modifies the breath greatly, and changes the offensive character of the expectoration, though to a less degree than that of the breath. It has more influence on the sputum in fetid bronchitis than it has in diseases attended with destruction of the lung.

CASE OF RHEUMATIC-ERYTHEMA.

Dr. Erasmi (*Centralblatt f. Chirurgie*) reports the following case: A woman, 52 years of age, suffered during four days with severe headache, after which an eruption showed itself upon the head, accompanied by high fever and intense itching, and in a few days spread over the entire body. The eruption consisted essentially of red circles and semi-circles, which frequently touched and intersected one another, and faded away on the periphery. The rings were somewhat painful on pressure. Under the use of colchicum and warm baths the affection disappeared in a few days.

AGREEABLE MODE OF TAKING CASTOR-OIL.

Castor-oil may be agreeably taken by first rinsing the glass with moderately hot water, and then proceeding as follows:

Take hot-water.....	2 drachms.
Castor-oil.....	1 ounce.
Peppermint-water.....	1 drachm.

To be put in a tumbler in the order mentioned above. Hardly any taste of the oil remains in the mouth, and it is easily swallowed. The tumbler is also easily cleaned, as little or no oil adheres to it.

AN AGREEABLE DISINFECTANT.

At a meeting of the Medical Society of Victoria (Australia), held at Melbourne, last July, Dr. Day alluded to some experiments he had made with the object of employing oxygen, in an agreeable form, as a disinfectant, especially for the use of persons attending on sufferers from infectious diseases, for doctors making *post-mortem* examinations, and for such-like purposes. Ordinary oxygen does not possess much disinfecting power, and when it is transformed either into ozone or peroxide of hydrogen, the two most active conditions it is capable of assuming, it acquires a somewhat disagreeable odor. Dr. Day found that Rimmel's toilet vinegar, which itself develops peroxide of hydrogen pretty freely, in consequence of the tolerably large percentage of essential oils which it contains, answered admirably in cloaking the smell of peroxide of hydrogen. He finds that by mixing ethereal solution of peroxide of hydrogen (erroneously called oxonic ether) with toilet vinegar, in the proportion of a drachm to the ounce, the combination forms a most agreeable, as well as highly efficacious, disinfectant. Mixed in these proportions, it readily gives the reactions of peroxide of hydrogen. There are two marked advantages, he thinks, to be derived from the combination of vinegar with the peroxide of hydrogen. In the first place, vinegar, in common with most acids, is capable of preserving peroxide of hydrogen; and, secondly, it allows of this powerful disinfecting agent being used with soap, the free alkali of which, under ordinary circumstances, would decompose it; but when combined with vinegar, no appreciable change occurs.—[*Chemist and Druggist.*

CHLOROFORM IN HYDROCELE.

In the *Union Medical de Canada*, Dr. Lubin, observing the frequent lumbar pain consequent upon the use of the ordinary injections in this affection, was led to use a formula similar to the following:

R. Tinct. iodinii comp..... 3 ounces.
Chloroformi..... 2½ ounces.

In a number of cases in which this mixture has been used, no pain whatever followed this injection.

COMPOUND SYRUP OF HYPOPHOSPHITES.

Hypophosphite of lime	256 grains.
" " soda	192 "
" " potassa	128 "
Protosulphate of iron	185 "
Hypophosphorous acid, sp. gr. 1,036	9 fl'd drachms.
Sugar	12 troy ounces.
Water, sufficient.	

Dissolve ninety-six grains of the lime-salt in four fluid ounces of water, with the aid of heat, and acidulate the solution with a small proportion of the acid. Dissolve the sulphate of iron in two fluid ounces of water; mix the two solutions, allow the mixture to stand a short time, and pour it on a paper filter; wash the precipitate on the filter with a small quantity of water acidulated as before, and preserve the filtrate; dissolve the remainder of the hypophosphite of lime with the other hypophosphites in four fluid ounces of water, with the aid of heat, adding the remainder of the hypophosphorous acid; mix the solution and the reserved filtrate, adding enough water to complete ten fluid ounces, and pour the liquid into a bottle containing the sugar; agitate the mixture occasionally, until the solution is complete, and filter through paper, if necessary.

CHLORODYNE.

Chloroform, Squibb's	2 fluid drachms.
Sulphuric ether	1 fluid drachm.
Prussic acid, diluted U. S. P	10 drops.
Tincture of capsicum	30 minims.
Sulphate of morphia	8 grains.
Powdered extract of licorice	8 grains.
Oil of peppermint	1 minim.
Molasses	3 fluid drachms.
Distilled water	30 minims.

Mix. Dose, ten to fifteen minims, according to circumstances. Each thirteen minims contain about one-fourth of a grain of morphia.

HOW TO REMOVE STAINS FROM STEEL-KNIVES.

The very best way to clean a stained steel-knife, is to cut a solid potato in two, dip one of the pieces in brick-dust, such as is usually used in knife-cleaning, and rub the blade with it.

NEW REMEDIES IN CHOREA.

Under this title, a writer in *La France Medicale* gives some account of the nature and uses of hyoscyamin and sulphate of eserine.

Investigations into the action of hyoscyamin, made some years ago by Oulment and Laurent, show that this drug influences more especially the sympathetic nervous system, causing vascular paralysis, in large doses. Upon the heart, it first regulates, then diminishes, and finally arrests pulsation. In toxic doses, peripheric sensation is blunted. The general phenomena observed under the use of hyoscyamin are due to its influence upon the circulation; this passes rapidly off, the drug being eliminated by the urine. M. Oulment administered hyoscyamin in doses of one-sixtieth of a grain (one milligramme) in pill form, at first twice daily, then more frequently, until saturation of the system was obtained. The dose was then continued cautiously. Amelioration in the chronic symptoms began towards the eighth or ninth day of treatment, and steadily continued.

THE DIAGNOSIS OF THE CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

In a recent clinic, Dr. Rickards remarked that, while pain in the head, vomiting, epileptiform attacks, disease of the optic discs, emaciation, eruptions, involuntary micturition, were symptoms found in many head affections, the sudden onset of symptoms, pain in the back of the neck, the stiffness of the muscles of the neck, and retraction of the head, were sufficient to separate cerebro-spinal meningitis, and tumor of the brain, diseases to which, in its symptoms, it was nearly allied.—*Phil. Med. & Surg. Reporter.*

TRAUMATIC TETANUS.

Dr. Fauntleroy reports a case of tetanus following a bruise of the big toe. It was treated with chloral, calabar bean, and a diet of milk and beef-tea; and after persisting for about three weeks, resulted in complete recovery.

TREATMENT OF CARBUNCLE.

In the *Medical Times*, Dr. Ziegler gives the following:

S. E., aged 40, salesman, was admitted into the surgical ward of the Episcopal Hospital, suffering from an extensive carbuncle on the nape of the neck, of two weeks' standing, measuring at the time of admission nine and a half inches in length, and four and three-fourth inches in width.

The treatment, which was directed by Dr. Ashhurst, consisted in the use of adhesive strips, about three-fourths of an inch in width, so applied as to make concentric pressure upon the part, and leaving a space over the center, corresponding to the size of the main opening, free, over which was applied a linseed-oil poultice, supported by a roller.

The internal treatment consisted of quiniæ sulph., 2 grains, and ferrum redact., 1 grain, given four times daily, with two bottles of ale and a well-regulated house diet.

On the second day, the tumor measured nine inches in length by three and three-fourth inches in width, thus showing the immediate effect of the strapping. The same dressing was renewed every morning until the eighth day, when two large sloughs were removed. A cure rapidly followed.

COLORLESS TINCTURE OF BROMIDE OF IODINE.

Take of iodine, resublimed	1 ounce.
Bromine	4 drachms.
Alcohol	14 fl. ounces.
Ether, sulphuric	7 ounces.
Glycerine	2 ounces.
Bisulphite of soda, powdered	2 ounces.

Dissolve the iodine in the alcohol, and the bromine in the ether; add the glycerine to the solution of bromide, and mix the two solutions together; lastly, add the sulphite of soda, and let the mixture stand several days, shaking frequently, when it will become perfectly colorless. Should the tincture afterwards acquire a reddish color, a small quantity of sulphite of soda will suffice to render it colorless again. The preparation is used with advantage for all cases in which iodine is employed. It is, besides, good for skin diseases, and mixed with equal parts of fluid extract of belladonna, it is excellent in the treatment of orchitis.

APOMORPHIA AS AN EMETIC IN CHILDREN.

Apomorphia has been known for several years as one of the alkaloid principles contained in opium. It is devoid of narcotic properties, if carefully prepared, and acts principally as an emetic. Dr. W. F. Duncan, of Randall's Island Hospital for Children, extols it as the most efficient and prompt of all emetics, especially for children, and in cases where it is desirable to evacuate the stomach of poisons. It is particularly applicable for hypodermic use, producing emesis in this way in from two to four minutes. One-tenth of a grain is a full dose for an adult, and one-fiftieth of a grain for a child one year old. Dr. Duncan bases its merits on the following grounds: First, rapidity of action; second, absence of danger from an overdose; third, lightness of secondary effects; fourth, shortness of period of nausea; fifth, ease of administration. The preparation commonly employed is the hydro-chlorate, and the English preparation is preferred to the German, because the latter has been known to contain an impurity of morphia. For hypodermic use, it is advised to dissolve it in water, with a small quantity of glycerine and alcohol.—[*Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal.*

BROWN'S CHOLERA-SYRUP.

R. Tinct opium	1	drachm.
Chloroform	2	drachms.
Tinct. camphor	½	ounce.
Tinct. zanthoxylum	1	ounce.
Tinct. cloves	2	ounces.
Best French brandy	4	ounces.
Syrup-simple	8	ounces.

As soon as bowel-complaint makes its appearance, take a teaspoonful of the syrup and go to bed; repeat the dose every time the bowels are moved, increasing it if the first proves inefficient. Children should be dosed in proportion to age.

SULPHATE OF CINCHONIDIA.

Dr. Reber has used this salt for eighteen months, to the amount of over one hundred and twenty-five ounces, in over fifteen hundred cases of malarial and congestive cases, and is as well satisfied with its therapeutic effects as with those of quinia.

SOLUTION OF CITRATE OF MAGNESIUM.

BY A. G. SCHLOTTERBECK.

The last revision of the United States' Pharmacopœia presents a changed formula for the above preparation, by the substitution of carbonate of magnesium in place of magnesia. This change is undoubtedly a great improvement, although the resulting preparation is still unsatisfactory, on account of its turbidity and a certain floccular deposit which will show itself in the course of a very short time after completion.

In experimenting to produce the solution free from the above named objections, without deviating from the formula of the United States' Pharmacopœia, I find that the following *modus operandi* will give the desired result:

R. Magnesii carbonatis	200 grains.
Acid citrici	400 grains.
Syrupi acidi citrici	2 ounces.
Potassii bicarbonatis	4 grains.
Aquæ puræ	q. s.

Dissolve the citric-acid in four fluid ounces of water, and, having added the carbonate of magnesium, previously rubbed through a sieve of about thirty meshes to the square inch, stir until it is dissolved.; then add the syrup of citric-acid and sufficient water to make the mixture measure eleven fluid ounces; filter this product, and introduce into a suitable bottle; then dissolve the bicarbonate of potassium in one fluid ounce of cold water; filter this solution, and add to the solution of citrate of magnesium contained in the bottle, which must be closed with a cork, and secured with wire or twine.

Solution of citrate of magnesium made in the above way will look clear and bright, and will retain its transparency for any length of time.—[*Journal of Pharmacy.*

INJECTIONS INTO THE SPLEEN.

Prof. Hammond has used injections into the substance of the spleen of half-drachm doses of fluid extract of ergot, to reduce hypertrophy of that organ in old cases of malarial poisoning. The size of the organ, diminished under the use of arsenic by the mouth, was still further reduced by ergot thus administered.

CHLOROFORM IN FLATULENT DYSPEPSIA.

In that form of dyspepsia, attended with rapid fermentation of food and evolution of gas soon after a meal, I find no remedy to give so prompt and satisfactory relief as chloroform, in doses of fifteen to twenty drops in one or two drachms of simple syrup. The gases are expelled from the stomach in a few minutes after swallowing the dose, fermentation is arrested promptly, and very seldom is any unpleasant effect experienced from the chloroform. Some patients speak of a slight intoxicating effect, that passes off in fifteen or twenty minutes. I have never seen it produce drowsiness in these doses, though, if repeated two or three times within an hour, it has a sporific effect upon subjects of mania-a-potu.

OZONE.

M. Leuder (*Annali di Chem.*) proposes the following powder for the generation of ozone: Equal parts of peroxide of manganese, permanganate of potash, and oxalic acid; for a medium-sized room, two tablespoonfuls. When water is added, the ozone is rapidly generated.

FISH abounds in phosphorus, and is, therefore, considered a most valuable brain-food. The more oily varieties form a very concentrated article of diet, capable of sustaining life even when consumed in small quantities; and, if agreeable to the stomach, will supply all the elements necessary to the support of vigorous health.

COUGH.

For the irritating cough, that is so harassing to many patients, nothing is better than frequent small draughts of warm water; and when the throat is inflamed, or the tonsils swollen so that deglutition is painful, a wet napkin, covered with a dry cloth should be put around the neck and worn until relieved, reweting the cloth as often as it becomes dry. It should be wet in cold water.

PILLS FOR CONSTIPATION.

Dr. Houser says: The following has benefited and cured more cases of chronic costiveness in my practice than all remedies I have ever given; and I can most confidently recommend it for that most troublesome condition, and hope that your readers will give it a trial:

R. Ext. belladonna..... ..... 10 grains.
Ext. nux vomica..... 20 grains.
Podophyllin..... 15 grains.
Comp. ext. colocynth..... ..... 1 drachm.

Mix. Ft. pills No. 40; Sig. One pill night and morning, or as often as is required to keep the bowels open.

HYDRATE OF CHLORAL IN OBSTETRIC PRACTICE.

Dr. H Chouppe gives an analysis of a large number of cases, reported by various authorities, in which chloral has been employed during the progress of labor. He gives, also, the experience which he has had himself in the use of this drug as an anæsthetic during parturition. His results may be briefly summed up as follows: Chloral is capable of producing well-marked cutaneous anæsthesia. It can entirely relieve the pains of labor. Even when given in such large doses as to bring about a complete state of anæsthesia, it does not diminish the contractility of unstripped muscular fibres, including the uterus. Occasionally the pains of labor are rendered less frequent, but in such cases their force is correspondingly increased, or, in other words, the duration of the labor is in reality shortened. In those cases where the patient has become irritable or fatigued by a prolonged labor, in which the uterine contractions are diminished, both in frequency and in force, owing to what may very properly be called inertia-uteri, the administration of chloral to such a degree as to produce complete anæsthesia will almost invariably restore tone to the uterus, and thus, by re-establishing the frequency and force of its contractions, speedily bring the labor to a successful termination. The administration of chloral as an anæsthetic has no injurious effect whatever on the child.

The use of the drug is especially indicated in tedious labors and with primiparæ, inasmuch as it is rare to find such severe pains in multiparæ as in primiparæ. Hysterical and nervous

patients are especially benefited by the use of chloral. It should be given after the first stage is completed, and the expulsive pains have begun. In rare cases, its use may be found advantageous during the first stage. It is best to obtain a solution so made that a teaspoonful of the mixture shall be equivalent to fifteen grains. The syrup of gooseberry is an excellent vehicle, as it effectually destroys the disagreeable after-taste of the chloral. The dose of the chloral should vary from one drachm to one and a half drachms, given in two doses, with half an hour's interval; or it may be given, when we do not wish too rapid an effect, in fifteen-grain doses, every fifteen minutes. When its administration is followed or preceded by vomiting, it should be given *per rectum.*

POISONING BY CARBOLIC-ACID.

The patient, a woman forty years of age, swallowed nearly a teacupful, or about four ounces, of crude carbolic-acid. Twenty minutes afterward the stomach was thoroughly washed out, and a pint of olive-oil thrown into it. There was much prostration; but under stimulants, milk, ice, etc., the patient gradually recovered, and was discharged from the hospital about a month after the accident.—[*New York Medical Journal.*

STOUGHTON BITTERS.

Take gentian root, bruised	4	ounces.
Orange-peel, fresh	5	ounces.
Ginger, bruised	½	ounce.
Cassia-bark	½	ounce.
Cardamon-seeds, bruised	¼	ounce.
Diluted alcohol	1	gallon.
Syrup	2	pints.
Water	6	pints.

Cudbear, or tincture of the same, sufficient.

Digest the drugs with the diluted alcohol for a week, then decant the clear liquor, press the residue, and pour on it the six pints of water; again macerate for three days, press out the liquid, mix the two tinctures, color to taste, add the syrup, and filter.

PREDICTION OF SEX IN UTERO.

Dr. Hutton, in substantiating the assertion advanced by Tyler, Smith and others—that not only can pregnancy, in its advanced stages, be determined by auscultation, but also the presentation, position and sex of the fœtus *in utero*—submits the following essential points from the clinical records of seven cases as a proof of the practicability and reliability of this rule: Fœtal pulsations, heard below a horizontal line dividing the uterus into two equal parts, denote vertex presentation; above it, breech presentation; below it and to the right, second position. When the fœtal pulsations number 144 per minute, it is a female; 124 per minute, male. As deviations from this rule, or average, will doubtless be encountered, he ventures to add that a variation of *six beats per minute*, from 124 upward, or from 144 downward, will not endanger a diagnosis, provided auscultation be practiced in the *ninth month of pregnancy*. In his cases this rule was his sole guide, and without a single failure.

LIGHT and air should at all times during the day be allowed to circulate freely among the hairs of the head; hence, the ordinary method that ladies have of wearing the hair braided or twisted into an impervious mass on the top or back of the head, has a damaging effect on the brain, and through that organ, on the whole system. Much of the headache so prevalent in fashionable society is attributable to this cause. Whether the hair be long or short, there can be no "sound *brain* in a sound body," unless it is worn loose and flowing.

GELSEMINUM IN VERATRUM POISONING.

Dr. Wilson reports that in a case of poisoning by veratrum viride, he used with success—

R. Fld. extr. gelsem..... 5 drops.
Pulv. nucis vomic..... ¼ grain.

Every fifteen minutes until there was perceptible change in the pupils. He attributes recovery to this treatment.

RAPID CURE OF ACUTE RHEUMATISM WITH SALICYLIC-ACID.

The first number of the *Berliner Klinische Wochenschrift*, for the new year, contains an article on the treatment of polyarthritis rheumatica with salicylic-acid, containing such interesting statements, and emanating from so high an authority as Prof. Traube, that we hasten to give some account of it to our readers. The cases occurred in Traube's clinic, and are reported by one of his assistants, Dr. Stricker. The latter states that for several months past all the patients affected with acute rheumatism, in whom the local symptoms were well marked, have been treated with salicylic-acid, and that in all cases, at the end of forty-eight hours—frequently much sooner—there was not only a return to the normal temperature, but also a complete disappearance of swelling, redness, and particularly of pains in the joints. Dr. Stricker proclaims boldly that the experience which he has obtained in these cases cannot be attributed in any way to chance, and that salicylic-acid must, therefore, entirely apart from its anti-pyretic action, be looked upon as having a specific action on acute rheumatism, and affording a means of the radical cure of the disease.

It is quite important that a pure pulverized acid should be obtained. When carefully prepared and pure, the crystals are very white and glistening needles, without smell, and soluble without cloudiness in water and alcohol. In this form, it can be given in large doses, without disturbing the digestion. It is administered in a wafer, to protect the mucous-membrane of the mouth and pharynx from dryness and burning, which sometimes follow contact with the crystals. The dose is from one-half a gramme to a gramme, or seven and one-half to fifteen grains, and is given every hour until the diseased joints can be moved without pain. To effect this, it may be necessary to administer as much as fifteen grammes—never less than five grammes. This treatment produces increased perspiration, tinnitus-aurium, and deafness, and rarely some mental exhilaration, symptoms which hardly contraindicate its use. The treatment should be begun early in the morning, and is occasionally complete before night. In one case, an enthusiastic patient took, without leave, twenty-two grammes in the space of twelve hours, without the slightest gastric disturbance. Meanwhile, the tongue, which

was heavily-coated, had cleaned up, and the lost appetite returned. The effect of the drug upon the secondary inflammations, particularly those of the pericardium, have not yet been sufficiently studied, the material for that purpose not having been adequate. The whole number of cases thus treated is but fourteen; the effects of the treatment are so uniform, however, that the profession is strongly urged to try it. This method has, we believe, also been carried out by another Berlin physician, with success. The first of Stricker's cases only is given in the number of the journal to which we have referred; the account of the others will follow. In this case there was considerable elevation of temperature, while several phalangeal joints of the left foot, the left knee, the shoulder, and the wrist were slightly reddened, swollen, and exceedingly painful. The patient had been sick several days; treatment was begun in the evening, and by the following afternoon all the joints were well, while his appetite had returned with great vigor.

TOOTHACHE DROPS.

The two following mixtures are recommended by Dr. Holderness, in the *American Journal of Dental Science:*

I.

Saturated solution of carbolic-acid	1 ounce.
" " chloral hydrate	1 ounce.
Compound tincture of camphor	1 ounce.
Fluid extract of aconite	1 ounce.
Oil of peppermint	4 drachms.

II.

Hydrate of chloral	1 drachm.
Water	4 drachms.
Tincture of aconite (Fleming's)	15 drops.
Chloroform	20 drops.
Ether	20 drops.
Alcohol	20 drops.
Acetated tincture of opium	2 ounces.
Oil of cloves	2 ounces.
Camphor	90 grains.

DON'T complain of the selfishness of the world. Deserve friends, and you will get them. It is a mistake to expect to receive welcome, hospitality, words of cheer, and help over rugged and difficult passes in life, in return for cold selfishness, which cares for nothing in the world but self. Cultivate consideration for the feelings of other people, if you would never have your own injured.

ON THE TREATMENT OF ALVEOLAR ABSCESS.

Dr. Lyons writes to the *Lancet:* "Alveolar abscess is the result of an acute inflammation of the periodental membrane. This may arise from various causes. It is commonly the sequel of acute inflammation of the pulp of a tooth, but it may commence in the membrane. An alveolar abscess generally points opposite to the buccal or labial surface of the affected tooth, or the pus may exude at its neck or travel along the hard palate and open at any point internal to the dental arch.

Among the different local remedies prescribed for this affection, the most common are external fomentations and poultices. This treatment is to be deplored, for the following reasons: when, for example, an abscess takes place at the root of an upper bicuspid tooth, and the swelling is at its buccal surface, on a poultice being applied externally, pus would travel above the fold of mucous-membrane connecting the superior maxilla with the cheek, and among the buccal muscles, ultimately passing through the skin, thereby producing those ugly scars often seen on the face of parties who have undergone this treatment.

ARREST OF PALPITATION OF THE HEART.

A correspondent in the *Union Medical*, August 21, calls attention to the fact that palpitations, when not depending upon organic disease, may be almost immediately arrested by bending the head downwards, and allowing the arms to hang pendent. The effect is even still more rapidly produced by holding the breath for a few seconds, while the body is in this bent position.—[*Medical Times*, London.

GOOD METHOD TO CLEANSE VIALS.

Vials that have contained oils, especially castor or cod-liver oil may be thoroughly cleansed by putting a drachm, or more (according to the size of the bottle) of soap-liniment in the vial, and olling up with warm water; shake well, empty, and then rinse with warm water.

NITRITE OF AMYL.

Nitrite of amyl is the nitrous-ether of amylic-alcohol. Ordinary nitrous-ether, the active component of sweet spirit of nitre, is a nitrite of ethyl, and is obtained pure by the direct action of nitrous-acid upon ordinary or ethylic-alcohol. In the same manner, amylic-alcohol or fusel-oil, on being treated by a stream of nitrous-acid, forms nitrite of amyl, the corresponding ether. The compound is a liquid of a light-yellow color, of sp. gr. 0.877, and boiling between 93 deg. and 99 deg., C. It was discovered by Balard many years ago, but it is only lately that Dr. Richardson called attention to its remarkable medicinal properties. Nitrite of amyl, when inhaled, is an immediate and powerful stimulant of the heart. It is not believed to be adapted to anæsthetic purposes, but its extraordinarily rapid action on the heart renders it of the greatest value in cases of syncope and failure of cardiac circulation.

THAT much, if not all of the salicylic-acid remains chemically unchanged in the usual manner of making the solution, viz.: by the aid of phosphate or borate of sodium, seems to be true from the fact that a concentrated hot solution deposits salicylic-acid upon cooling. The anti-septic and disinfecting properties of the acid may be very much increased by dissolving it by the aid of sulphite of sodium. The following makes a good prescription:

R.	Acid salicylic	1 drachm.
	Sodii sulphis	2 drachms.
	Aquæ	8 ounces.

Misce et fiat solutio.

A permanent solution of salicylic-acid in glycerine may be made of the strength of one grain to the fluid drachm, by the aid of a gentle heat. This solution may be diluted with water, if desired —[*Clin. Record.*

QUININE IN EPISTAXIS.

A writer in the *Lancet* says quinine is *the* remedy in epistaxis. He says that he has tried it more than twenty times, often in aged people, and has never found it to fail.

DIABETES TREATED BY SKIMMED-MILK.

At a recent meeting of the Clinical Society of London, Dr. Donkin read reports of two cases of diabetes-mellitus, in which the skimmed-milk treatment was adopted early in the disease, with the result of causing an entire disappearance of the sugar in a week in the first case, and within twelve days in the second. Dr. Donkin thought these two cases good illustrations of the efficacy of the treatment in arresting the disease when applied early.

CANNABIS-INDICA IN POST-PARTUM HEMORRHAGE.

Dr. W. Donovan (*London Obstetrical Journal*) says that in case of flooding after delivery, where ergot has failed, a full dose of tincture of cannabis-indica (20 drops) has in every instance checked the flow in a few moments. It also has power of controlling and relieving metrorrhagia and profuse menstruation in a marked degree.

DOCTORS.

Good folks ever will have their way,
Good folks ever for it must pay;
But we, who are here and everywhere,
The burden of their faults must bear.
We must shoulder others' shame—
Fight their follies, and take their blame;
Purge the body, and humor the mind;
Doctor the eyes, when the soul is blind;
Build the column of health erect
On the quicksands of neglect:
Always shouldering others' shame—
Bearing their faults and taking the blame.

An ink, composed of copper, 1 part dissolved in 10 parts nitric-acid, 10 parts water being afterwards added, is useful for marking on tin or zinc plant-labels.

DIPHTHERIA.

Dr. Dodds, in a recent article in the *Medical and Surgical Reporter*, says:

In treating diphtheria, we should keep prominently before us the fact that the most important part of the treatment is to combat the blood-poison.

While local applications to the throat are quite essential, they are only secondary in importance to constitutional treatment. We never will succeed in curing diphtheria until we possess a remedy which will destroy or restrain the disease, or the virulent poison which causes it.

Those of you who were in the army will recollect that among the medical supplies, furnished by the Government, was a preparation called Bibron's antidote, manufactured by Squibb, of New York. The object of this preparation was to neutralize the blood-poison caused by the bite of a snake, tarantula, and other reptiles or insects. We had frequent occasion to use this remedy while camping through Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia. When given in conjunction with large doses of whisky and brandy, it always proved successful, so far as my observations went.

From this fact, the idea suggested itself to my mind that if Bibron's antidote and whisky would neutralize the blood-poison from a snake-bite, it might have the same effect upon the poison which creates diphtheria. The chemical nature of the two poisons may be different; one can be seen and analyzed, the other cannot The constitutional symptoms differ in violence. In one case, a large amount of poison enters the circulation *suddenly;* consequently, the corpuscles of the blood are broken down *rapidly*, and destruction and death of the organs follow *speedily*. The chemical changes which take place in the blood may be the same, but by a slower process in one than in the other.

Bibron's antidote is composed of—

R. Bromine	2½	drachms.	
Iod. potass	2	grains.	
Bichlor. mercury	1	grain.	
Alcohol, diluted	30	drachms.	M.

Dose—One teaspoonful, well diluted.

I commenced using this formula as it stands, but soon after substituted the chlorate of potassa for the iodide. I generally

repeat the dose at intervals of three to six hours, according to the severity of the case; alternate with large doses of whisky or brandy, given in the form of milk-punch or egg-nogg, for the reason that they are more palatable in this way; besides, milk and eggs, if not good curative remedies of themselves, are good prophylactics in all infectious diseases—especially milk, in large quantities. The alcoholic preparation should not be given prematurely; wait until the inflammatory and septic influence of the disease has been somewhat lowered by the ordinary antiphlogistics, and then push the remedy to the verge of intoxication.

It is astonishing what large quantities of alcoholic stimulants may be taken, even by children, in severe forms of diphtheria. An adult patient, suffering from the poisonous effects of the bite of a serpent, will bear a pint of strong whisky in the course of an hour; while a child four years old, suffering from diphtheria, will bear three to four ounces in the course of a day.

Glycerine, on account of its penetrating, softening and soothing influence, should enter into all the combinations we use for internal application of the throat. I know of nothing better for this purpose than a preparation like this:

R. Sol. persulph. iron..... 3 drachms.
Potassa chloras..... 2 drachms.
Glycerine..... 1 ounce.
Aqua..... 1 ounce. M.

Add to this a sufficient quantity of carbolic or salicylic-acid. The objectionable property of this new rival (anti-septic) is its insolubility in cold water. As the addition of borax and hot water will dissolve it readily, it should be kept prepared for use. This same preparation, diluted will answer for a gargle.

COTO-BARK IN DIARRHŒA AND RHEUMATISM.

This new bark, from Bolivia, is said, by Professor Giete, of Munich, to be a specific against diarrhœa in its most diverse forms. He administers it in doses of 0.5 gramme of the fine powder four or six times a day. Of the tincture, he usually gives ten minims every two hours. In Bolivia, whence the plant was sent, it is regarded as a remedy against rheumatism and gout.

ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION IN APOPLEXY.

The advantage of the employment of artificial respiration in some cases of apoplexy is illustrated in the report of a case to *The Medical Record.* Dr. Cleborne writes that, while traveling in the cars, a gentleman was seized with apoplexy. Dr. Cleborne had him immediately removed to the parlor car, laid on the floor, and his clothing loosened. By this time, he was entirely unconscious; his breathing was slow, labored, stertorous, and puffing; his face was flushed and turgid; his pulse slow, hard, and intermitting; his pupils, slightly contracted; no convulsions or paralysis. Fearing that his patient would die by apnœa—the face becoming more livid, the coma more profound, and the respirations feeble and labored—Dr. Cleborne had recourse to Sylvester's method of artificial respiration; and in an hour and a quarter had the satisfaction of seeing the patient return to consciousness, so that by the time the train reached his place of abode, he was in a condition to be removed to his residence. He is now in the enjoyment of good health. The writer is convinced that but for the timely use of artificial respiration, a fatal result must have occurred.

COUGH-LOZENGES.

Powdered liquorice	2 drachms.
" acacia	2 drachms.
" sugar	4 drachms.
" ipecac	3 grains.
Acetate of morphia	1 grain.
Oil of lemon	5 minims.
Lemon-juice	75 minims.

Rub the powder thoroughly together, add the oil of lemon, and rub again; dissolve the morphia in the lemon juice, add the latter, and work into a mass; divide the whole into lozenges, weighing 11 grains each, while still moist; use powdered sugar in rolling out the mass; dry the lozenges thoroughly.

This will make about 60 lozenges, very useful in allaying a tickling cough, such as sometimes keeps a person awake at night. Three or four at bedtime, and one or two during the night, if required, will give a good night's rest. They should be allowed to dissolve in the mouth.

SALICYLIC-ACID.

In *surgical anti-septic* treatment, Wagner found salicylic-acid superior to phenol for both fresh wounds and old sores, and efficient in eczema, diphtheria and fermentive disturbances of the alimentary canal. It is stated that Prof. C. Thiersch has shown "salicylic-acid fully equal to carbolic-acid as a preventive of putrefaction in surgical treatment; it surpasses the latter on account of its being odorless and less irritating." Salicylic and carbolic-acids are alike in this; they *cannot serve directly as deodorizers*; they do not destroy the fetid products of decomposition, as bromine, chlorinated compounds, nitric-acid, permanganate do, not being, like these, "oxidizing agents." On the other hand, these anti-ferments or preservative agents prevent the decomposition which is the source of foul products, as the simple oxidizing agents do not.

THE DANGER OF KEEPING FLOWERS AND FRUIT IN SLEEPING-ROOMS.

This subject is rendered still more interesting by the facts mentioned in the *Wiener Medical Presse*: Dr. Breitter reports that a gentleman had the unhappy idea of making of the branches of an oleander, some sort of an alcove in which to sleep; next morning, he was found dead; a grocer and his clerk went to sleep in a room where three boxes of oranges stood, and they were dead by next morning; a clerk in a store, who was to watch at night, laid down with a bag of sassafras under his head; he likewise was found dead in the morning; another gentleman, having some hyacinths in his room, got the most violent headache, and felt so drowsy that he could scarcely keep awake.

ERGOT FOR THE INTESTINAL HEMORRHAGE OF TYPHUS.

Dr. Plagge strongly recommends the extract of ergot, in combination with tincture of opium, with cherry laurel-water as a vehicle, and given every half-hour, in the treatment of hemorrhage from the bowels, occurring in typhus-fever. He has found the ergot much better than ice and astringents.

TREATMENT OF DIPHTHERIA.

Dr. J. S. Benson writes to the Canada *Lancet:* I take the liberty of placing before your readers the treatment which has proved in my hands not only very efficacious, but almost a complete specific. For the last twelve or thirteen years, we have had unequaled opportunities of watching the disease in all its stages, from the mere fibriny whiteness of the palate and tonsils, to the complete obliteration of the palatine arch by false membrane internally, and enormously enlarged sub-maxillary, and parotid glands externally, which sometimes suppurated; death resulting in some cases from the mechanical obstruction to respiration, and in others from pure blood-poisoning, as manifested through the nervous system; the local symptoms in the throat having to a great extent disappeared, leaving both food and air-passages perfectly free and open.

When called to a case of diphtheria, I first of all clear out the bowels by a dose of calomel, followed in a few hours by a little senna or Rochelle salts. If there is much heat of skin, as will be shown by the thermometer, a warm-bath will give very great relief; and after the bowels have been freely acted upon, I commence with the chlorine-water. To patients from ten to twelve years, and upward, I give one tablespoonful; from six to twelve, one dessertspoonful, and under six, one teaspoonful, every three hours. In all cases, it should be given without any addition of water. A towel, saturated with cold spring water, is to be applied to the throat and neck, the cold renewed as the towel becomes warm. The patient is to have small pieces of ice on a plate by the bedside, a piece of which is to be kept constantly in the mouth. The diet should be nutritive: beef tea, milk, eggs and such like; but no stimulant is required, unless the prostration should be alarming. In some cases, which are mild, and occur in young children, a mixture, containing tincture of iron, chlorate of potash, and dilute hydrochloric-acid, may suffice to cure, but in no case can the same dependence be placed in it as chlorine-water.

Notwithstanding the opinions of Greenhow, Brettonneau and others of equal celebrity, as to the efficacy of caustics and gargles as topical agents, I must humbly beg leave to differ entirely with them, and disapprove *in toto* of such proceedings. I most assuredly believe them not only to be of no value, but in many

cases positively injurious. If we look upon diphtheria as a blood-poison, which it undoubtedly is, we must, if possible, find an antidote and administer it. I believe we have it in the above mixture. Can we expect to cure it by a little nitrate of silver, locally applied, and giving a little tonic medicine? Here is a disease, a poison in the blood, manifesting itself, and increasing so rapidly in a part, the free passage through which is indispensable to life, which, if not arrested, will, in a few hours, place the patient beyond the reach of human aid. It is not a disease which we can allow, as some fevers, to run a definite course, merely supporting the strength and guiding it to a certain turning point. Such would, I think, be a dangerous experiment in diphtheria.

It has been found that salicylic-acid does the work of carbolic-acid *upon the organized ferments*, and in many cases, with great efficiency. Plagge found that 4 per cent. of phenol (cryst. carbolic-acid) were required for the total arrest of alcoholic fermentation, though doubtless a much smaller proportion may prevent the beginning of fermentation, germs being absent from the liquid. Prof. Neubauer, of Wiesbaden, found that ½ per cent. of salicylic-acid, in fresh grape-juice, prevented fermentation, 2 per cent. being required to prevent growth of fungi.

SALICYLIC-ACID IN DIABETES.

A colored woman at the Columbus Hospital for Women has been treated for diabetes-mellitus with salicylic-acid in pill, using ten grains thrice daily. There was fourteen per cent. of sugar in the urine. Under the influence of the salicylic-acid, the sugar disappeared from the urine, and all other symptoms were correspondingly relieved.

Invalids, who have become debilitated or consumptive in regions nearly on a level with the sea, are usually greatly benefited by a change to the mountains having an altitude of 3,200 feet. But it has been found that mountain-air, at double this altitude, will produce instead of curing such debilitated conditions.

BITTERS.

The vegetable ingredients are to be reduced to moderately fine powder:

Gentian-root	8 ounces.
Golden-seal-root	8 ounces.
Cloves	2 ounces.

Deodorized spirit of 50 deg., enough to make one gallon. Any druggist having a percolater and tincture-press will know how to use it.

Gentian has long been known as one of the best tonics we have. Golden-seal (yellow-root) has been known for its healing qualities in sore mouths, inflamed eyes, ulcers, etc. Within a few years past, its good effects, when taken internally, have been well tested. It seems to possess those desirable supplemental qualities lacking in the gentian. A small amount of cloves is added as the best aromatic to cover the taste of the two bitters, and prevent nausea. If a laxative bitter is desired, two drachms or half an ounce of socotrine-aloes may be added to each quart. —[*Druggists' Circular.*

CREAM OF CAMPHOR.

White Castile soap	½	ounce.
Boiling water sufficient to dissolve it.		
Carbonate of ammonia	4	drachms.
Camphor	4	drachms.
Tincture of opium	4	drachms.
Oil of origanum	2	drachms.
Water, sufficient to complete	2	pints.

BELLADONNA.

Dr. Baird calls attention to the effects of belladonna in promoting contraction of the vesical sphincter: Has recently treated six cases of incontinence of the urine—three in adults, three in children—and had used tincture of belladonna, in doses of fifteen drops, three or four times daily, in adults, with invariable success. In these cases, he was unable to ascribe the trouble to any ascertainable cause.

TREATMENT OF CARBUNCULAR DISEASE IN MAN BY THE SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION OF ANTI-VIRULENT FLUIDS.

Raimbert tried the subcutaneous injection of carbolic-acid (1 part to 50) in two cases of carbuncle, after other means had failed, and in one case the hypodermic injection of iodine (1 part to 500); in all, three cases, with favorable results. In the first case, he was consulted on account of a malignant œdema of the face by a farmer, who, a week before, had lost a good many sheep with a fatal inflammation of the spleen (milzbrand). The disease first appeared as a number of small pustules behind the right ear, to which was soon added a considerable infiltration of the cheeks, lips and structures beneath the jaw. On the third day, the white-hot iron was applied around the diseased part, a distance from it of four to six centimetres, and the surface of the scabs were sprinkled with corrosive-sublimate. On the following day, so soon as the swelling had diminished, Raimbert injected ten or twelve Praaz's syringefuls of a two per cent. solution of carbolic-acid into the whole extent of the cheek, from the temple to the sub-maxillary space. The result was astonishing; the injections were repeated on the following day; the scab came off on the 18th day, and the healing progressed uninterruptedly.

The second very interesting case was in the person of a farmer, who, in opening a vein in a cow suffering from gangrenous inflammation of the spleen, had, in doing so, inflicted a slight abrasion of the skin on the left ring-finger. Three days afterwards, he noticed, at the point of the abrasion, a small papilla, depressed in the center, which the physician, he consulted, declared was malignant pustule, and cauterized it with caustic-potash. On the following day, there was considerable increase in extent and severity, and the swelling rapidly extended to the whole arm, which became so hard and tense that it was necessary to make a number of incisions in both the arm and forearm to lessen the tension. On the fourth day, Raimbert saw the patient, and, mindful of his former case, he injected nearly forty syringefuls of carbolic-acid solution, of the same strength as formerly, in the whole length of his arm. The result was "*brilliant.*" As early as the next day the arm was less hard; and the injections were repeated on this day morning and evening. From that time the improvement progressed slowly, but steadily; so

that, at the end of two months, after the gangrenous parts of the ring-finger, a part of the back of the hand, and, also, some parts which had become gangrenous at the seat of puncture, had been cast off, all the wounds were found to be well healed over.

In a third case, where the wife of a tradesman had been handling hides, the affection began as a small knot on the right cheek, the connective tissue around which had become infiltrated for a considerable distance, and from which a red band of lymph-vessels ran directly to an enlarged gland behind the jaw. After removing the skin at the center, the wound thus made was treated with corrosive-sublimate. The swelling had greatly increased on the following day, and was progressing towards the neck and eyelids; that evening, four and a half syringefuls of solution of iodine (1 part to 500) were injected under the skin of the cheek and lower jaw. On the following day, no change having occurred in the swelling, the injection was repeated, and on the next day, there was a manifest diminution in the size of the affected part. On repeating the injection, the improvement was marked, and steadily increased, although, on the seventh day of the disease, the patient gave birth to a seven-months' child.

HYPOSULPHITE OF SODA FOR WORMS.

Dr. Taliaferro affirms that remedies do not macerate worms. He has found as a most admirable remedy for worms, hyposulphite of soda, in doses of five, ten or fifteen grains, in solution. This kills the worm absolutely. He is in the habit of not giving anything to move the bowels afterwards, as the remedy itself acts.

TETTER IN THE BEARD.

For an obstinate case of tetter, when carbolic-acid fails, cut the beard short, pluck out every diseased hair, and apply an ointment like the following:

R. Sulph. lot.	1 scruple.	
Hydrarg. præcip. alb.	1 scruple.	
Acid carbolic	10 drops.	
Adipis	1 ounce.	M.

Repeat this as long as the hair shows disease.

MEDICAL VALUE OF VINEGAR.

Dr. W. H. Griffith says, in the *Medical Press and Circular:* When freely diluted, vinegar acts as a refrigerant, and is used to sponge the body in fevers, and as a lotion to sprains and bruises; it is also a useful application to the breasts in cases of painful distention with milk, and to prevent suppuration. Warm vinegar is recommended by Dr. Dewees as an application in the early stages of mammary-abscess.

Strong acetic-acid acts wholly as an astringent and stimulant, and when concentrated, it is irritant and caustic. As a local astringent, it has been found useful in hemorrhage from the nose, uterus, hemorrhoidal tumors, and ulcers, and administered in the form of enema, it has quelled hemorrhage from the large intestines. It has been employed as an astringent gargle in cases of relaxed uvula and tonsils, and oxymel is a valuable adjunct to astringent gargles.

Strong acetic-acid, or glacial acetic-acid, has the power of removing warts, especially when of a syphilitic nature, and corns, owing to its solvent powers over the albumen composing them. As a lotion for ringworm of the scalp, acetic-acid is of great service, and when diluted, it soothes the itching of psoriasis and lichen. Dr. Broadbent proposed to destroy cancerous tumors by injecting acetic-acid into their substance; the injection should not be too strong or too frequent, lest phlegmonous inflammation ensue. Glacial acetic-acid vescitates speedily, and may be used in cases in which cantharides is inadmissable; it gives great pain, however, and is liable to cause some troublesome sores. When taken internally, in moderate quantities, at intervals, vinegar increases the appetite and facilitates digestion, being a solvent of all the protein bodies, except casein. When taken in excess, however, it seriously impairs the digestive powers; and Morgagni affirms that it causes thickening of the coats of the stomach. It has a tendency to produce emaciation, owing, probably, to its solvent action on the fibrine of the blood; and Haller went the length of recommending it as a remedy for obesity, an advice which has been frequently followed by fatal results. According to some chemists, vinegar, or acetic-acid, becomes changed into lactic-acid in the system. Vinegar is most injurious to anæmic or chlorotic females, and nursing mothers should carefully abstain from it, as instances are on record in which its

employment by the mother induced fatal diarrhœa in the infant. Although vinegar is liable to produce diarrhœa and colic, curious to say, it has been found to relieve the colic of lead-poisoning. Some therapeutists have classed the substances under consideration among the arterial sedatives, and have recommended their administration in hæmoptysis, hæmatemesis, and the sweating of hectic. I have never seen good effects from such a treatment, and a knowledge of the chemical action of vinegar upon the blood would lead me to expect results the reverse of beneficial. Vinegar augments the secretion of the salivary glands, and so assuages thirst; it also palliates the heat of the skin, and for these reasons it has been administered in fever. Its tendency to produce colic and diarrhœa is a serious objection to its use in such cases. Clysters of vinegar have been recommended for ascarides of the rectum.

QUININE.

Dr. Drake, in the *Medical and Surgical Reporter*, says: "At least three different physiological effects can be obtained from this drug. In doses up to two grains, it is a tonic; from this to five grains, it is a stimulant, and from this to ten grains or more, it is a diaphoretic relaxant and calmative—a febrifuge. The amount of twenty-four grains, distributed over twenty-four hours, may have some anti-periodic effect in a mild type of ague, but will prove very disagreeable to the patient, on account of cinchonism. If he has any headache, it will aggravate this symptom. If this amount be divided into three doses, and taken within four hours, at any time after a pyrexia has reached its hight, say after 4 P. M., the tonic effect will be apparent in the relaxation and diaphoresis; the patient will be drunk. A half-pint of whisky can be taken in small doses during a day, without inducing intoxication; yet, if it is all taken in the course of two or three hours, an individual will be apt to exhibit strong evidence of being in this state. So with chloroform and ether. I once treated a pregnant woman, who was within a month of term, and suffering from remittent fever, by timidly giving less than five-grain doses every three hours; by the time the third dose was taken, uterine pains set in, which soon became expulsive, and forced the child out with a good deal of laceration of

the os, although the membranes were not ruptured until the last moment. The contractions were as severe as any I ever saw from ergot, leaving no doubt as to the part the quinine was playing, except as to the provocation. I couldn't say that it started the pains, yet I am sure it intensified them in the most fearful manner. In using quinine subsequently, with pregnant women, I never gave less than twenty or thirty grains in the space of four or five hours, and never had any unpleasant effects. In malarial regions, it is rather common for women to have pains for months before term, which I have found to yield to large doses of quinine, on the theory that there is a congestion of the womb, and that this agent reduces congestion, especially in the soft and spongy tissues, in any part of the body, and in any disease, and does not act antidotally in the usual sense. I make it a rule never to give quinine in the forenoon, always giving it at night, to the amount of not less than twenty-five grains, conjoined with an opiate, and am nearly certain of getting a good diaphoretic effect, which will be apt to extend through the succeeding day. In all the pyrexiæ of this region, I prescribe it the first visit, and frequently have the satisfaction of aborting a case of pneumonia, or making its subsequent course manageable. In the pneumonia of the middle-aged, who are so liable to overwhelming congestion of the lungs, it is the sheet-anchor, given in large doses at the outset."

Dr. Shearer, in an article on the value of *ice* in *scarlatina* and *diphtheria*, *internally* by the mouth, and *externally* to the neck, says: "Forty cases, of the most malignant type, and have not lost a single one." Of some of them, he says: "They had been greatly neglected; throats were swollen, having gangrenous spots, accompanied by great physical prostration; in fact, I might almost say the sufferers were at the very threshold of eternity, as under any other treatment I had not seen or known of a recovery in any case equally bad." He spoke confidently of the value of his remedial measures; instructed the parents in the mode of applying the ice *over* the inflamed glands, the bandage being carried over the top of the head instead of around the neck; impressed upon them the importance of giving cold water freely as drink, and the use of it, if needed, on the head,

or over the body, to relieve the brain or reduce the temperature of the body; proved to them, by actual demonstration, that if the ice which they had applied to the throat or sides of the neck were only the thickness of a knife-blade away from it, it was utterly valueless; and that, therefore, the muslin bag, or the bladder, which contained the ice, should be pressed close upon it. He says: "Since I used the ice, I did not lose a single case, and I can recommend it highly to the profession. There are many timid men who have not the courage to use it, and it appears they cannot learn how to do it. When I first used the ice, I was often compelled to remain in the house with the patient, and apply it myself, for hours, until I was satisfied it was doing a great deal of good, and my patient was out of danger."

A NEW METHOD OF PREVENTING THE SECRETION OF MILK IN THE FEMALE BREAST.

Dr. Lane writes to the *Medical Press and Circular:* "I have for more than ten years employed the following method to prevent the secretion of milk in the breasts of women who may have had still-born children, or who, after having nursed their child for a few months, found it necessary to wean it. It is perfectly clean and painless, as far as my experience goes, and as such, I beg to recommend it to the notice of my medical brethren.

"We will take, for instance, the case where the infant has been born at the full period, but is dead, or dies within a few hours after its birth. The milk makes its appearance in the breasts generally about the second day—sometimes longer—and sometimes it is ready when the child is born; and in the case of still-born children, my experience leads me to think that in such cases it makes its appearance earlier than when the child is born alive. My plan consists in taking a piece of emplastrum adhæsivum of about ten inches square, round the corners, cut a hole in the center for the nipple; then from the center of each corner make a straight cut toward, and within two inches of, the center hole; having now got it ready, let the patient lie on her back, her body being perfectly horizontal; warm the plaster and

place it over the breast; then strap one of the lower corners down first, draw the opposite one tightly upward, and fix it in its place; then the other lower corner, and lastly, the opposite upper one, having drawn it sufficiently tight first; now take a piece of plaster two inches wide and about sixteen or eighteen inches long, and put it on from below and outside the breast, across, close by, inside of nipple, and fasten the end over the clavicle; another piece may also be put on in the opposite direction, it being drawn over the shoulder. Of course, in cutting the plaster and strips, the size of the breasts must be taken into consideration, there being so much difference in the size of female breasts.

"The above plan I always follow when one of my patients wishes to dry the milk, as they usually call it, or where they are compelled to do so, either from the death of the child or any other cause. I also am certain that strapping will prevent mammary-abscess, if resorted to in the earlier stage; I at least have found it to do so in many cases."

TREATMENT OF CONSTIPATION.

The *Gazette Medical di Roma* says: "Every one knows how difficult defecation sometimes is for those persons who are afflicted with habitual constipation. In such cases, relief is often sought from injections of cold water, with the occasional addition of oil or soap. The following clyster is recommended as infallible in such cases:

"Take a tumbler and fill it half full of water, at the temperature of the room; pour in a few drops of tincture of camphor, just enough to give the water a slight sapidity, then fill the glass with water; inject this slowly into the rectum, till about sixty or eighty grammes have been introduced; at first, no effect is perceived, but in about ten minutes the desire to defecate becomes irresistible: the effect becomes energetic in proportion to the quantity of tincture of camphor added. After the defecation, it is well to repeat the injection of a small quantity of the same mixture, and retain it in the rectum, which can readily be done, so as to prevent constipation on the following day."

LEPTANDRA AS A PURGATIVE.

Dr. Woollen writes to the *Louisville Medical News:* "During the past few years I have been prescribing the *fluid extract of leptandra* with results so gratifying that I desire to call attention to the virtues of the above-named drug. Whether or not it has any specific action upon the liver I cannot say, but I am certain that it is one of the most efficient and safe purgatives that we have, and can be used without fear of debilitating the patient; in this respect widely differing from podophyllin, a remedy so often prescribed in hepatic disorders.

"In that class of cases usually called bilious, whatever that may mean, where there is loss of appetite, with a heavily-coated tongue and constipation of the bowels, I know of no single remedy so universally applicable and useful as the leptandra. It is often well to combine it with the fluid extracts of senna and rhubarb; but whether so combined or given alone, it is certain in its results, and produces purgation without pain, griping, or debility. In those cases of obstinate constipation, occurring in young infants, where it is necessary to resort to a purgative, it will be found that a few drops of the leptandra, added to the syrups of senna and rhubarb, will produce the best results.

"It must be borne in mind, however, that the proper dose will vary with the individual. Owing to the idiosyncrasy or other cause some patients will need but ten minims at a dose, while others will require as much as a drachm to produce any decided effect. The disagreeable taste of the drug is the only bar to its use, and this may be overcome, to some extent, by combining it with some syrup that is agreeable to the taste of the patient."

THE NEW FASHION.

She tried to sit down in the street-car, but was pinned back so tight she couldn't. Old lady peeped over her specs, and asked her, "How long have you been afflicted that way?" The young lady blushed and made "a break," sitting down sideways, and holding her knees together so tight that she looked as if she had on a one-legged pair of breeches. Old lady noticed her sitting in this sidewise, cramped position, and whispered, "Bile, I 'spose; I've had 'em thar' myself."

SCARLET-FEVER.

Eleven years ago last August, I received a telegram from a medical friend in a neighboring city, stating that scarlet fever of the severest form was making sad havoc among the children, and asking me to come to his assistance. Responding promptly to the call, a journey of about four hours brought me to a community that were fairly "panic-stricken." The disease was very prevalent, and alarmingly fatal. We visited houses where all the family—in some cases three or four—were sick.

In such emergencies time is precious, and we set ourselves to work promptly and actively. In all recent cases, where the eruptions had not come out freely, warm baths were ordered, and to be repeated every five hours, until a free eruption appeared. In cases of great debility, sponge-baths were used, or cloths dipped in hot water, and wrung as dry as possible. It is well in all cases to alternate these with the baths. In cases of longer standing, where the erpution had appeared, but the skin was dry and parched, we *invariably* smeared the little patient, over the entire body, using a piece of fat bacon, or a piece of fat cut from a smoked ham.

An educated physician long ago recommended this remedy. I have always employed it since that time in every case I have treated. My medical friend lost no more little patients; and he declared to the day of his death that the "bacon saved them."—*Hall's Journal of Health.*

ORANGES IN FEVER.

In feverish conditions, with loss of appetite, squeeze out the juice of two or three oranges into a soup-plate, and break bread or crackers into the same, and you will have a meal at once palatable and refrigerant to the feverish system.

WORM-TEA.

Spigelia	4 drachms.
Senna	3 drachms.
Aniseed	1 drachm.
Boiling water	16 ounces.

Infuse for an hour. Dose, from one to two tablespoonfuls every three hours.

GONORRHŒA INJECTIONS.

Dr. Johnston, in Atlanta *Medical and Surgical Journal*, says: "You cannot 'burn out' the disease. The idea is a pernicious one. Because a certain strength accomplishes so much, is no reason that twice the strength will confer twice the benefit. Some persons treat gonorrhœa as though aqua-fortis were the natural food for the penis.

"The urethra is as fastidious of its proper dose—much more so, indeed, than is the stomach.

"Different strengths of the same remedy are rarely different remedies. Where a particular solution proves serviceable, one slightly weaker might prove inefficient, and one somewhat stronger might aggravate the trouble; hence the necessity of thorough knowledge of your weapons. A remedy too irritating will aggravate the disease, will even set up an inflammation in an innocent penis.'

"A very high authority, Dr. Van Buren, of New York, rightly says that 'the weakest injection that will do good is the proper strength.'

"'The test of the proper strength is the pain produced by it; severe and long-continued pain indicates too great a strength; a very slight smarting, lasting a few moments, should be arrived at."

SALACINE IN DIARRHŒA.

After detailing a few cases of severe diarrhœa, treated with marked success with the above-named drug, the writer remarks: "It combines the tonic element of quinine with strong astringent properties. In cases of enteric atony, especially in chronic cases, from chronic diarrhœa or other debilitating diseases, where quinine is inadmissible from its tendency to irritate the bowels, in my hands salacine has given the most flattering results. My experience has been small, and it is the design of this article to draw attention to this subject, that we may have further light from more experienced quarters. So far, our authorities, as the Dispensatory, Stille, Flint and West, make, if any, the most cursory notes of salacine as a medicine. Only in Reynolds' 'System of Medicine' does Dr. Aitkin mention it as 'a remedy which has been found very valuable in cases of chronic diarrhœa, where

opiates and astringents have entirely failed.' I always prescribed it in powders, to be given in sugar and water. You will be surprised how readily it will be taken by the little ones; much more readily than quinine, though more bitter. It seems to be a purer bitter, and one more acceptable to the stomach. In no case was it ejected till the system seemed satisfied. It is my rule to continue its administration for from two weeks to two months after the subsidence of the disease proper, according to the time the disease has existed. The dose corresponds with that of quinine." —*Chicago Medical Journal and Examiner.*

DR. WARMAN reports a case of *psuedo-membranous croup* in which all the ordinary popular remedies, such as emetics, inhalations of vapor of lime, and lime-water, and finally filling the room with steam, failed to give relief, when, as a *dernier resort* (the parents refusing to have the operation of tracheotomy performed), inhalations of *bromide of ammonium*, ten grains to the ounce, were used in the atomizer, and immediate relief, from the most alarming dyspnœa, was obtained; and the patient made a complete recovery, with the exception of the entire loss of voice.

MISTURA ANTI-RHEUMATICA.

R. Potassii nitratis	1 drachm.
Vini colchici, radicis	1 drachm.
Spiritus ætheris nitrosi	1 ounce.
Syrupi guaiaci	2 ounces.
Olei gaultheriæ	6 drops.
Aquæ, q. s. ad	6 ounces.

Signa—Dose, a tablespoonful every two hours.

SYRUPUS PECTORALIS.

R. Ammonii chlordi	½ ounce.
Syrupi senegæ	1 ounce.
Misturæ glycyrrhizæ comp. q. s. ad	8 ounces.

Signa—Dose, a dessertspoonful.

Excellent as a cough syrup.

TREATMENT OF GONORRHŒA.

In the Cincinnati *Lancet and Observer*, Dr. Minor gives some comparative cases of the treatment of gonorrhœa. He concludes:

Other cases might be mentioned, but let the foregoing suffice, as in all the result was about the same. In every case, the too long use of the injections used was carefully guarded against, and the patient received the usual directions regarding diet, etc., generally laid down in the text-books on this special subject. The reader will at once see that the duration of a case of gonorrhœa is quickly shortened when copabia is used in place of oil of sandal. In case of gleet, on the contrary, the oil of sandal far excels the balsam of copaiba, and all injections may be omitted, also, while the sandal is being used.

The following conclusion in regard to the relative value of the two drugs, in the treatment of gonorrhœa and blennorrhœa, are drawn from my experience with these agents:

1. In cases of acute gonorrhœa, occurring in strong and healthy persons, without any tendency to kidney trouble or gastric derangement, the use of balsam of copaiba will be found to be the most satisfactory, as compared to sandal-wood-oil.

2. In cases of gonorrhœa which show a tendency to become chronic, and in which the continuous use of copaiba has caused irritation of the kidneys, and a gastric derangement, sandal-wood-oil may be substituted with great advantage.

3. In cases of obstinate gleet, oil of sandal-wood, in large and long-continued doses, will, without the aid of other means, completely cure the malady.

4. Sandal-wood-oil is agreeable to the taste, and creates no nausea, nor does it communicate a disagreeable odor to the breath and urine, as in the case of balsam of copaiba.

ANTI-SEPTIC MOUTH-PASTE.

Rectified salicylic-acid..... 2 grams (or parts by weight).
Honey..... 34 grams " "

POWDER FOR EXTEMPORANEOUS MOUTH-PASTE.

Rectified salicylic-acid..... 2 grams (or parts).
Powdered sugar, or some other inert powder..... 120 grams "

Mix—To be applied to the sore parts of the mouth, by means of a brush, previously moistened with water.

DR. RIDDLE reported a case of *concussion of the brain, with cure from free catharsis*, in a young man 24 years of age, who jumped from his wagon while his horses were running away, and struck his head violently against a telegraph pole, producing concussion of the brain. The patient remained in an insensible condition some three or four days, and then slowly regained consciousness.

At this time, he described his condition as if he were in a dream. Various remedies were tried to better his condition, such as the bromides, iodides, stimulants and depressants, and bleeding, but all failed to give relief. The doctor remarked that he himself had suffered from concussion, produced from a fall from his horse while in the Army of the Potomac, and had not obtained complete relief from the injuries sustained until a sharp and severe attack of dysentery set in. Reasoning from analogy, and while casting about for a remedy for his patient, he had been induced to try the same treatment that nature had employed in his case. Accordingly, he put the patient upon fld. ext. rhubarb and bi-carb. soda, producing free catharsis, which speedily relieved him of all brain-symptoms.

A PLEASANT QUINIA MIXTURE FOR CHILDREN.

Sulphate of quinia.....	5 grains.
Syrup.....	7 fl. drachms.
Fl. extract of liquorice.....	1 fl. drachm.

Mix. Shake the bottle before giving.

The quantity of quinia may be varied to suit the case. Use about one fluid-drachm of the fluid-extract, for every five grains of the quinia. Children will take this and ask for more.

CURE FOR PILES.

Dr. Bowen recommends, in *The Medical Record*, the following as a "radical cure for piles:" He injects into the hæmorrhoidal tumor a solution composed of equal parts of carbolic-acid and fluid-extract of ergot, using from ten to fifteen minims of the solution. The process is to be repeated once a week for five or six weeks, when the tumor disappears.

NEW METHOD OF FILTRATION.

Prof. Charles A. Seeley has invented a new method of filtration. At the bottom of an open glass-tube, say one inch in diameter, he places a piece of filtering-paper, and over this a piece of India muslin, which is secured around the tube by a rubber-ring. The tube is filled with the liquid to be filtered, and is closed at the top with a rubber-stopper, through which runs a piece of rubber-piping. The tube is connected with the two bottles, so arranged that the water in the upper one flows down into the lower one, forcing out the air, which in turn runs through the rubber-pipe, forcing out the liquid through the filtering material. The arrangement is exceedingly ingenious; and by this means a liquid may be filtered in one-fourth of the time which the operation takes up by the old method.

DYSMENORRHŒA.

Dr. Minot reminded the Boston Medical Society of certain cases of dysmenorrhœa, relieved by valerianate of zinc, which he had reported at the meeting in April. He desired to say that two of those cases had recently come under his notice, and in both, the effect of the remedies appears to have been permanent. The dose administered was one or two grains, three times a day, beginning twenty-four hours before the expected catamenia. When begun after the pain has set in, the effect of the remedy has not been so good, but even then, considerable relief has been afforded.

RAPIDITY OF FILTRATION.

Dr. Fleitmann has called attention to the fact, not generally known, that, contrary to what at first sight might be expected, filtration is much more rapid through thick paper than through thin, and that it is almost twice as rapid through a double-filter as through a single one, and still more rapid through a triple one. He says that he has taken advantage of this fact, for a number of years, by employing in quantitative analyses a filter of heavy paper beneath the thin one of Swedish paper.

ERGOTIN IN CROUPOUS-PNEUMONIA.

Dr. Wycisk, acting on the principle that this drug contracts the vessels, and so prevents exudation from them, has treated six cases of croupus-pneumonia in this way, and gives the following report: In one such case, marked by an excessive highly albuminous expectoration, it ceased entirely two hours after administration of the drug, in powders of nine grains each, every quarter of an hour. The abundant rales in both lungs soon diminished, so that there was only a slight crepitation at the original focus of the disease. These good effects lasted for two days. Two relapses occurred, however; but the same good effect was again obtained by the administration of the ergot. After the second relapse, ten-drop doses of the tincture of ergot were given four times daily, until convalescence was fully established. In the five other cases, the ergot was used early, and none ended fatally, none became chronic, and none left appreciable deposits behind them; in all of them, the exudation was decidedly checked by the ergot. It is, however, held to be a dangerous remedy where the lungs are considerably infiltrated, where there is emphysema, where the cerebral arteries are weak, and where the patients are feeble or decrepid.—[*Allg. Med. Central Ztg.*

ERGOTIN IN HEMORRHAGE.

Dr. Green reported a case of *bleeding from gums* after extraction of teeth. The hemorrhage was severe, and he plugged the cavity with persulph. iron, followed by pressure, which arrested the bleeding for a time, but hemorrhage returned. A hypodermic injection of ergotin was then given, and arrested the bleeding at once.

TRIKOMONIA.

Pure bay-rum	80 ounces.
Mille-fleurs-water	20 ounces.
Concentrated glycerine	10 ounces.
Tincture of cantharides	1 ounce.
Tannin	2 ounces.

Mix and filter. Hair beautifier, restorative and dressing.

CHLORIDE OF LEAD AS A DEODORIZER.

Dr. Goolden, in the *London Lancet*, calls attention to the great value of chloride of lead as a deodorizer. He prepares it by dissolving half a drachm of nitrate of lead in a pint or more of boiling water and pouring the solution into a bucket of water in which two drachms of chloride of sodium have been dissolved. When the sediment has subsided, the clear supernatant fluid is a saturated solution of chloride of lead. Dr. Goolden says that a cloth dipped in this solution, and hung up in a room, will instantaneously sweeten a fetid atmosphere, or if the solution be thrown down a sink, water-closet, or drain, or over a heap of dung or refuse, a like result will ensue. In this way, he disinfected a house into which a drain had burst, some stables, and also a large ship. In the last case, the bilge-water was extremely offensive. He merely dissolved half an ounce of nitrate of lead in a bucket of boiling fresh water, and had it thrown down the bilge when the ship was rolling slightly. The effect was the instantaneous disappearance of the smell.

LIQUOR-BISMUTHI IN HÆMORRHOIDS.

The use of liquor-bismuthi for hæmorrhoids and prolapsus ani is recommended in *The Practitioner* by Dr. Cleland. It is recommended that the patient with hæmorrhoids mix a dessert-spoonful of liquor-bismuthi with half a wineglassful of starch, and, after getting into bed and returning the bowel into its place, introduce this enema and retain it. Dr. Cleland states that in instances in which the necessity for surgical interference seemed indubitable, an operation has been avoided, and his patient has recovered under the use of the injections.

Dr. Steele, in the *Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal*, commends the grindelia-robusta as a specific in poisoning by rhus-toxicodendron. It is applied locally, in form of hydro-alcoholic fluid-extract. He also employs it internally in asthma, rose-cold, and hay-fever, in dose of ten to twenty drops every half-hour until relief is obtained.

UNRELISHED FOOD.

That unrelished food does not satisfy the demands of the system, is within the cognizance of each person. Each one of us has at times "risen from the table as hungry as when we sat down to it," because the unconscious demands of our system had not been met by the food we had eaten.

Such facts of our own experience should be proof to us that each system possesses its own needs, and that nutrition for each person is a question of individual appetite.

Consumption, claiming victims in every country, is primarily a disease of innutrition, the first symptom of which is loss of power to assimilate food. More women than men die of this disease, because fewer women than men have the needs of their systems satisfied.

Very marked choice in food arises from some special need of the system. Florence Nightingale, in her nursing, met these cases, "not by ones, not by tens, but by hundreds." She found food to be craved and digested "which would be laid down in no dietary for the sick." Her great success in nursing arose from her recognition of the laws of nutrition and her obedience to them. "Let the stomach have its cravings," was a cardinal maxim of hers, and she kept to her practice of satisfying such demands of the system, even when they extended, as was not unfrequently the case, to articles not generally classed by physiologists and medical men under the head of nutriment. Physicians themselves, in cases of disease pronounced hopeless, have sometimes allowed, from the very hopelessness of the case, a particular article craved, which has proved the one thing that has turned the scale from death to life.

ATIRONA.

Blanched bitter-almonds	3 ounces.
French rose-water	48 ounces.

Mix and strain; then add:

Essence of lily of the valley	16 ounces.
Concentrated-glycerine	4 ounces.
Powdered-borax	2 ounces.
Carbonate of soda	1 ounce.

Dissolve, and mix the whole thoroughly. An elegant cosmetic for the complexion.

BROMIDE POTASSIUM IN NASAL-CATARRH.

Dr. Coomes, in the *Louisville Medical News*, recommends the bromide of potassium, in powder or saturated solution, in the treatment of nasal-catarrh, where there is a dry condition of the membrane. In hypertrophy of the membrane, lining the nasal cavities with an insufficient amount of the normal secretions, a condition met with in proliferous inflammations of the membrane, insufflations of the powdered bromide or injections of the saturated solution produce most excellent results. By its use the secretions of the membrane are increased, congestion lessened, and a marked reduction in the hypertrophied tissues. Its immediate effect in these cases of proliferous inflammation of the nasal cavities is to relieve the patient of the sense of "stuffiness" which is almost always complained of. The bromide is also of value as a local agent in the treatment of throat affections. In cases of acute tonsillitis and pharyngitis, it matters not whether in their incipiency or in the advanced stages, a solution of the bromide of potassium, sixty grains to the ounce of water, applied with a mop or with an atomizer, every hour or two, will be found to produce well-nigh complete relief. In cases of ulceration, the open sore should be touched with carbolic-acid or nitrate of silver. In but few cases will it be necessary to apply the escharotic a second time. Under this plan of treatment all the painful and distressing symptoms that attend such cases speedily disappear.

CURARE IN HYDROPHOBIA.

Offenberg (*Wien. Med. Presse*) gives a case of this disease occurring in a girl of 18. After using injections or morphia and inhalation of chloroform without effect, seven hypodermic injections of curare, aggregating three grains, were administered in the course of five to six hours. The muscular disturbance ceased almost immediately, the other symptoms subsiding more gradually, and, at the same time, paralysis appeared, reaching its hight the next day, and gradually diminishing. Great prostration continued; and it was some months before the patient recovered.

CONSUMPTION.

At a meeting of the Medical Faculty of Maryland, Dr. Arnold, of the Section on the Practice of Medicine, read a paper on Pulmonary Consumption. It states, in substance, that this disease continues to exceed the most malignant epidemic in the yearly mortuary reports. During the past ten years, pathologists have discovered that a form of consumption may be artificially produced in animals by inoculation of various morbid secretions. Autopsies reveal that tubercular phthisis is caused by self-inoculation, the infecting particles being the residue of some foregoing inflammatory affection. The changes produced consist of the formation of tubercles in the lung, which lead to suppuration and ulceration. Scrofulous persons are particularly liable to this disease. But the greater proportion of cases of consumption result from a peculiar insidious form of inflammation of the lung—cheesy pneumonia. This affection frequently induces, by absorption of its morbid products, the tubercular variety of consumption, so that both forms of phthisis frequently exist at the same time. Hereditary consumption depends on the liability of persons to be affected by cheesy pneumonia; galloping consumption being, in every case, an extensive cheesy pneumonia, accompanied by fever. Consumption is frequently acquired in certain trades and occupations through the inhalation of dust, etc. There is no doubt of the curability of consumption, for healed cavities are often found in the lungs of individuals who, at some period of their lives, must have suffered from consumption. Cod-liver oil is not a specific, but its employment in connection with the skillful management of the case promises good results. The nobler part of the profession is in search for the conditions that prevent a disease; and by the labor and zeal of medical men the adoption of those hygienic and sanitary measures are now urged which will greatly reduce the number of consumptives.

Dr. Dawson says that good cows' milk, diluted from one-third to one-half with barley-water, forms one of the best articles of food that can be used for infants, when it is necessary to bring them up artificially.

OPIUM VERSUS VERATRUM.

Dr. Westmoreland had seen a man take an ounce of veratrum, mistaking it, whilst tapering off from a spree, for paregoric. It produced most terrific vomiting and alarming prostration, cold extremities, cold sweats, etc.; pulse, 36. Arrived half an hour afterwards, and found him in above condition. Opium and stimulants were happily given. Thinks there is no doubt opium will counteract the effects of veratrum; he always gives it in vomiting from veratrum; he had never seen veratrum given for opium-poisoning; said he considered it an antidote to the effects of opium —[*Atlanta Med. and Surg. Journal.*

POISONOUS DYES.

According to the London *Lancet*, coraline causes inflammation of the feet. It is an attractive color, and people like to stripe their stockings with it. A person was affected by an unbearable headache, from wearing a hat, the brown leather lining of which had been dyed with a poisonous aniline dye. In a little time, ulcers formed on the forehead, and the whole upper part of the head became much swollen.

CYTHERENE.

French rose-water	60	ounces.
French orange-flower-water	28	"
Concentrated-glycerine	8	"
Chloride of lead	4	"
Hyposulphite of soda	8	"

Mix. For restoring gray hair to its natural color.

STRANGURY.

R. Creosote	12	drops.
Vinegar	12	drops.
Aqua-cinnamon	3	ounces.

M. Dose, one teaspoonful, in water, every two hours, until relieved. —[*Med. Reporter.*

COLORS IN INSANITY.

The experiments of Dr. Pouza, of Alexandria, in the use of colored glass in the treatment of the insane, are narrated in the *British Medical Journal*, of March 25, 1876. Dr. Pouza placed his patients in chambers colored red, blue and violet. In the red room, he placed a melancholic man, who had refused his food, but who in three hours was lively and hungry. In the blue chamber, a violent lunatic was placed, who became quieter within an hour. The violet-room furnished equally good results. Of the rays of the spectrum, the violet possesses the most intense electro-chemical rays, the red are the richest in calorific rays, while the blue, devoid of these properties, are the most useful in their quieting influence. It is to be hoped that further experiments may show that, by the employment of the simple means referred to, the good results which Dr. Pouza has indicated may be obtained by others.

NEUROSES OF THE HEART IN CONSEQUENCE OF MALARIA.

Dr. Kiparsky, who lived for a long time in a region of country extensively visited by fever, observed in the course of his practice several cases of very severe neuroses of the heart, which possessed the following characteristics: The attack generally came on very suddenly, with loss of consciousness, and was generally accompanied by complete cessation of breathing and by pulselessness; and when help could not be procured immediately, it terminated in death.

The diagnosis was rendered especially difficult at first, because the first cases occured in women who were certainly in good health, and who presented no symptoms of open or concealed intermittent fever, but in all of whom the menstrual discharge was present at the time of the catastrophe. Of the four cases described we take here only the first and fourth:

CASE I.—O. X. was admitted to the hospital at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, complaining of weakness and pain in the abdomen. The house-physician found that the menstrual flow was just commencing, and ordered warm fomentations to the abdomen, with tincture of valerian and Hoffman's anodyne. At six o'clock in the evening, when Dr. K. saw her, the pain had

passed off, and her pulse was only slightly accelerated. No treatment was considered necessary. At a subsequent visit of the house-physician, at 8 o'clock in the evening, she was still better. At 7 o'clock, the next morning, she was found dead in her bed. A *post-mortem* examination revealed nothing.

CASE IV.—The wife of a physician, in perfect health, and at the commencement of a menstrual period, whilst pouring out tea to some guests, suddenly became very pale, and fell. She was found to be entirely pulseless. After using various stimulating remedies, the pulse gradually returned, and after ten minutes, consciousness was restored. About fifteen minutes afterward, the temperature was found very high—41.2 deg., C. (106.1 F.) Two doses of quinine (18¾ grains each) restored her to health by the next day, and she had no further return of fever.

Dr. K. was convinced by the first case that he had to deal with a concealed, pernicious intermittent fever. It should be stated also that the second and third cases terminated fatally. Death occurred in all these cases at the commencement of the cold stage, when, from the very great contraction of the vessels of the skin, the resistance became too great for the power of the heart.

A CASE OF POPLITEAL-ANEURISM TREATED BY DIGITAL-PRESSURE.

Dr. Hutcheson says in the *New York Medical Record*: A laborer, æt. 33, who was temperate, and had always enjoyed good health, noticed a stiffness about the knee, in last July, and, on rubbing it, discovered a small swelling in the popliteal space. On February 9th, digital-pressure of the femoral-artery was kept up for eight hours, but so imperfectly that no good effects resulted. On the 11th, Signorini's tourniquet was applied and its use continued for three days; but the surface became so irritated that its use had to be suspended. On the 15th, digital-pressure was again used, the finger of the operator being aided by the weight of a bag, containing ten or twelve pounds of shot, above it. Pressure was kept up for twenty-two hours, pulsation having ceased in the tumor at the expiration of sixteen hours.

EYE-SIGHT.

Hall's Journal of Health says: "There are many persons who are greatly annoyed with weak eyes. This results, sometimes, from using the eye in too great a glare of light; at others, from using them by artificial light, or in the 'dusk of the evening;' that is, by twilight. To illustrate, in part: Our office has two large windows; twelve sets of slats cover them. If all the slats are open our eyes begin to water in five minutes, and we commence a winking and a blinking, which has to be kept up all the time, to keep the sight clear. But if we close all the slats but one, and that an upper one, so as to throw the light down on the page, and from behind, we can write for hours without inconvenience, or 'specs.' We conclude, therefore, that we have been using eleven times more light than was necessary. This simple fact may be of real practical use to multitudes. Too much light injures the eyes as certainly as too little. We found this out to-day, after a variety of experiments within two months; thus, we are living to learn, with a view of learning to live—for a long time. The amount of relief afforded, in any particular case, can only be determined by experiment."

JARBORANDI IN COLDS.

A French writer suggests that we are now in possession of a medicine which is destined to render signal service in colds. It is jarborandi, which, by its sudorific properties, and by its exciting action on the glands of the air-passages and salivary-glands, combines the principal pharmaco-dynamic effects that have heretofore been sought from various medicines. An infusion of one drachm of the leaves in a small quantity of water constitutes an efficient means against colds, if taken early.

SOLUTION OF SALICYLIC-ACID.

Emlen Painter, Ph. D. (*Pacific Med. and Surg. Journ.*), suggests the following formula, which contains two grains of the acid to the fluid drachm: acid, salicylic, gr. xxxii; sol. acet. ammon., oz. ii. Dose, a teaspoonful, to be increased or diminished, as required.

TREATMENT OF GONORRHŒA.

Dr. Gatewood, in *Virginia Medical Monthly*, says: "Living on the Rappahannock, where there are a great many oystermen who lead dissipated and reckless lives, I have had many cases of gonorrhœa to treat. For the past two years, I have discarded all the various modes mentioned in the books and journals, and have adopted one of my own which I have found more satisfactory in its results than any other.

"I order the patient to take a saline cathartic every morning to keep his bowels in good lax condition. I prepare for him a bottle of bicarbonate of potash, and arrange the dose so that he takes one drachm every day. I then prepare him an injection of twelve ounces of thin gum-acacia mucilage, and add to it two drachms of carbolic-acid. Sometimes, I weaken the injection when the inflammation is high. I always enjoin rest and light diet, and positively prohibit all stimulating drinks—which advice is rarely ever followed. I always instruct my patient first to urinate, and then to wash the urethra out with tepid water before using the injection; to do this night and morning. If the case seems one of very high state of inflammation, and I can confine my patient to bed, I add tartarized-antimony to the potash and use water-dressings to the member. Since adopting this plan, I never have any dyspeptic symptoms which follow so often the use of balsam, sandal, etc., and my patients get well much sooner, and at a much less cost to me, for in the country we have to furnish all the medicines, and frequently without pay.

"This plan of treatment is very economical, and I think country doctors generally will like it if they will give it a fair trial. I treated ten cases during last January, and all were cured perfectly in from eight to fifteen days, and on their feet all the time."

AQUA-DELICIOSA.

Oil of bergamot	6	ounces.
Oil of neroli	2	ounces.
Oil of cedrat	1½	ounce.
Oil of lemon	1	ounce.
Oil of rosemary	½	ounce.
Alcohol	25	pints.
Orange-flower-water, French	25	pints.

Mix and filter. Highly esteemed.

AN EASY AND PAINLESS MODE OF EXTRACTING FOREIGN BODIES FROM THE NASAL CAVITY.

Dr. Pearl says: "Rosa Westheimer, aged two years, was brought to my office in July, 1872, for the purpose of extracting a plum-seed from her nose, which she had inserted a few hours previous. The seed filled the cavity completely, and was very slippery, consequently I could not get hold of it, and with each attempt to do so it moved further in. It was evident that the object could only be accomplished by getting an instrument back of it; this led me to think of the nasal-douche, which would propel the seed forward. I placed the child in position for the nasal-douche, with the head bent forward, and applied it to the free nostril, and immediately after turning on the steam of milk-warm water the seed was forced out, and fell into the basin with a loud sound, calling forth an exclamation of joy and relief from the anxious mother.

"I have since then had occasion to extract other foreign bodies from the nasal cavity, and I have used the douche as above with like success. As I have no recollection of ever having seen it mentioned in medical works, and as it is much easier than the usual method, causing no pain whatever, I tender it for publication.—[*Medical and Surgical Reporter.*

DIARRHŒA.

It may be well for persons traveling during the summer to know that, in case medicine is not at hand, a safe remedy of considerable efficacy is found in stirring a little wheat flour in a glass of cold water, until it is of the consistency of thick cream, drink it down, and repeat it several times in the course of the day if needed; meanwhile, eat nothing, drink nothing, and lie down if practicable; the flour may act mechanically, not medicinally, by plugging up the relaxed mouths through which the watery particles are poured into the intestinal canal.

Here diarrhœas are often the result of the greater coolness of the morning and evening over midday, and the injurious effects of bad air on an empty stomach. Hence, one of the most important rules for travelers, in all seasons, climes and countries, is, NEVER FAIL TO BREAKFAST BEFORE YOU RIDE.

GRAPES IN FEVER.

Dr. Hartsen, in *Centralblatt fur die Med. Wissenschaffen*, recommends grapes as a valuable diet in fever.

The grape contains a considerable amount of hydro-carbonaceous matter, together with a certain quantity of potassium-salts, a combination which does not irritate, but, on the contrary, soothes the stomach, and consequently is used with advantage, even in dyspepsia. While considering the carbo-hydrates contained in the grape, we must not neglect the organic acids, particularly tartaric-acid. Dr. H. thinks the nourishing influence of these acids too much neglected. It is, indeed, known that they are changed to carbonic-acid in the blood, and are excreted as carbonates in the urine. Possibly, careful research might show that, under some circumstances, the organic acids are changed to fats. Dr. H. believes that the organic acids should be ranked with the carbo-hydrates as foods. When fresh grapes are not to be had, raisins or diluted wine might be used.

A CASE OF TRANSFUSION.

Dr. Schwarz (*Wiener Medical Presse*) reports a case of transfusion of blood, the patient being a hysterical girl. She menstruated for the first time at the age of fifteen, but the flow was always of too small an amount, and in the next year symptoms of hysteria of high grade appeared. By persistent loss of sleep and appetite she was reduced to such a degree that death seemed imminent, and one hundred and twenty grammes of blood were injected into the arm. The result was favorable; the patient soon recovered, and regained her good health.

ELIXIR OF RHUBARB AND MAGNESIA.

Rhubarb	4 ounces.
Cinnamon	30 grains.
Cloves	30 grains.
Diluted alcohol	1 pint.
Fluid-magnesia	1 pint.
Syrup of peppermint	4 ounces.

Macerate the drugs in the alcohol, express and filter, and add the magnesia and the syrup.

DIPHTHERITIC INFLAMMATION.

Dr. Fitz says: "The various stages in the development of this process in the human intestine were observed by Rajewsky. He found that a catarrhal process always preceded the diphtheritis, and that at the outside of the latter a fibrinous exudation is deposited in and upon the mucous-membrane. The latter then dies, and is converted into a granular albuminous material; this destruction increases in extent, and at the same time, the blood-vessels in the altered tissues undergo a hyaline metamorphosis. Micrococci and bacteria are found in the unaltered tissue, and in that which has become granular, isolated in the former, as colonies in the latter. In the earlier stages the lymph-canals of the submucous tissue are filled with the bacteria. In order to determine the relation of the parasites to the diphtheritis and to the hyaline degeneration of the blood-vessels, he made several experiments on rabbits. When fluids containing bacteria were injected into the blood-vessels, an intestinal diphtheritis followed only when an inflammation of the mucous membrane was previously produced. This was done by the injection of a weak ammoniacal solution into the intestine, and then the micrococci became fixed in the intestinal mucous-membrane after passing through the walls of the vessel. If either injection solely was made, no diphtheritis of the intestine followed. It was concluded that in intestinal diphtheritis, the parasites play an important part, but the soil in which they are to grow must previously be prepared by irritants. The inflammatory change in the mucous-membrane is in relation with the hyaline metamorphosis of the blood-vessels."—*Medical and Surgical Journal.*

HOW TO CURE A COLD IN THE HEAD.

Dr. Ferrier, being dissatisfied with the usual formula for treating a cold in the head—namely, "sudorifics, and lying in bed," has made a trial of various substances, to be used in the form of snuffs, at the beginning of an attack of nasal-catarrh. He finds the following prescription very efficacious:

R. Muriate of morphia..... 2 grains.
Acacia-powder..... 2 drachms.
Sub-nitrate of bismuth..... 6 drachms.

Of the powder, one-quarter to one-half may be taken as snuff in the twenty-four hours.

DIPHTHERIA.

Dr. Billington's treatment consists mainly in local disinfection, together with the most careful and unremitting watching and attention. The agents which he regards as most useful are the following, in the order in which they stand in his estimation: tincture of the chloride of iron, lime-water, and glycerine; and after them, salicylic and carbolic-acids, sulphite of sodium, chlorate of potassium, etc. One formula, which he uses in almost every case, is as follows:

R. Tinct. ferri chlor.....1½ drachm.
Glycerine.....1 ounce.
Aquæ.....1 ounce.

S. Teaspoonful every hour or half-hour.

Besides being very effective, it has the merit of being pleasant to the taste, which is a great desideratum for children, especially when the dose has to be so frequently repeated. If the child is under two years, one drachm of the tincture of the chloride of iron is enough, and if vomiting follows the administration of the medicine, it should not be given so often.

In connection with the above, Dr. Billington formerly employed the following:

R. Potass. chlor.....1½ drachm.
Glycerinæ..... ½ ounce.
Liq. calcis.....2½ ounces. M.

A teaspoonful of this was alternated with a dose of the former; so that the patient would receive one or the other every half-hour. As a substitute for the chlorate of potassium mixture, he now generally uses the following:

R. Abid. salicylic.....10 grains.
Sodii sulphit.....30 grains.
Glycerinæ..... ½ ounce.
Aquæ..... 2½ ounces. M.

Here the salicylic-acid is rendered soluble by the addition of three times its weight of sulphite of sodium (borax also has the same effect); so that in this prescription we have the advantages of both these reputed anti-septics, which are indicated theoretically, and really seem to be of considerable practical benefit. It is of great importance that in every case in which it is practicable, some sort of spray should be used about the throat; and

the most convenient instrument with which to accomplish this is the ordinary little perfumery spray-apparatus, now in such general use. In order to annoy the child as little as possible, it is best to employ the spray immediately after a dose of the medicine is administered. The combination generally used by Dr. Billington is the following:

R. Acid. carbolic.....10 drops.
Liq. calcis.....4 ounces. M.

He believed that the nasal-douche, or syringe, has saved many lives; and even when the nasal passages, apparently, do not seem affected, it is often useful in reaching portions of the mucous-membrane inaccessible to the spray.—[*Medical Times.*

MASSAGE.

Massage is becoming more and more used at the Orthopædic Hospital, in the treatment of palsies, etc. We have two well-trained and skillful manipulators, one male and one female, who are employed during the morning hours by the hospital.

The benefit of this form of treatment is, I think, more particularly seen in local paralysis and in hysterical patients, whose limbs have become cold and shrunken from long disease. It is also a most valuable adjunct to electricity in paraplegias, of whatever origin they may be.

The elevation of temperature in a palsied limb, after manipulation, is often remarkable.—[*Medical Times.*

CONSUMPTIVE COUGH.

Tincture-gelseminum, in doses of from five to eight drops, in a little water, given at bedtime, generally allays the distressing cough of consumptive patients, and procures a good night's rest.

OFFENSIVE DISCHARGE FROM CANCER.

Chloral-hydrate.....1 drachm.
Water.....4 ounces.

Mix. Use as a lotion.

GRINDELIA-ROBUSTA IN THE PAROXYSMS OF ASTHMA.

Dr. Richardson says: "In January, 1875, I treated Mr. T. K., aged 30, for asthma. He had suffered from it since infancy. His father was a life-long sufferer from the same affection. My patient, therefore, may be said to have *hereditary* asthma. I had tried nearly every known remedy without satisfactory results. I concluded to test the then new remedy—grindelia-robusta—and ordered a bottle of the fluid-extract from New York City, not being able to find any here. I directed Mr. K. to take forty-drop doses, repeated every one or two hours. When he had taken three or four doses, the paroxysm promptly disappeared. An interval of two or three months elapsed before another return; the usual interval formerly having been ten days to two weeks. On the reappearance of the asthma, he resumed the use of the remedy without any good results. Three months ago (December 1875), he had a most violent attack, when the grindelia redeemed itself by relieving him at once.

I have used the grindelia freely in a number of cases, finding it often serviceable, and now prescribe it as my first remedy in such cases. If it fail, I fall back to the usual treatment in this affection.

Mr. K. continues to use the grindelia as a preventive, placing himself under its influence upon the first intimation of an approaching paroxysm, and thereby escapes it. Of course, in using this new remedy, I do not lay aside hygienic measures.—[*Medical News.*

BISMUTH IN CHANCRE.

The subnitrate of bismuth is the most valuable of all applications to inveterate or obstinate chancres. If there be much pain, add sulph.-morphia in proportion of three grains to the ounce of bismuth.

THERAPEUTIC PROPERTIES OF ZINC-PHOSPHIDE.

Dr. Pattee recommends the use of this drug in neuralgia, spinal irritation, and other nervous diseases in which phosphorus is usually employed.

THE TURPENTINE TREATMENT OF ENTERIC-FEVER.

Dr. A. Moffitt writes to the *Lancet:* The regiment of which I have medical charge arrived in India on the 18th of March, 1875, and between that time and the end of the year, seventeen persons were attacked with enteric-fever. Of this number, five were treated in the ordinary way; and in them, the disease ran a long and severe course, many complications arising during its progress, and finally proved fatal in two out of the five cases, which is about the usual mortality in this country. The remaining twelve patients were treated with turpentine, and in them the disease ran a short and mild course, with few complications; and all the symptoms, but especially the enteric, were so modified that no fears were entertained during its progress of an unfavorable termination, and the twelve patients, without an exception, made good recoveries.

The line of treatment pursued was as follows: As soon as the disease was diagnosed, oil of turpentine, in half-drachm doses, made up with mucilage of eggs, was given four times a day, and continued throughout its course; and nourishment in the liquid state, such as beef-tea, milk, chicken-broth, eggs beaten up, etc., was given freely; and a stimulant, generally brandy, was given as the symptoms indicated, but less in the cases that occurred latterly than formerly.

APOMORPHIA AS AN EMETIC.

Dr. Robinson reports to *The Medical Record* a case in which apomorphia was successfully used. His patient, a boy three years old, accidentally swallowed a bi-convex, lens-shaped tin-whistle. It was found to be lodged near the cardiac terminus of the œsophagus. This canal was completely closed, as was shown by the vomiting of any food he attempted to take, but none of the contents of the stomach was ejected with it. One-twelfth of a grain of apomorphia was administered hypodermically in the patient's arm. In three minutes, the emetic quality of the drug was manifested by pallor. The boy was then placed in bed, flat on his belly, when, after three or four violent attempts, the whistle, together with the contents of the stomach, was expelled.

EUCALYPTUS IN AGUE.

Dr. Boyce says, in the Virginia *Medical Monthly*: A case of ague and fever, which had been treated with quinia, arsenic, etc., was cured in four days, by simply taking the essence of eucalyptus (prepared from the oil distilled from the leaves), 2 drachms, three times a day. I believe we possess in the eucalyptus a remedy not inferior to the cinchona-alkaloids. The oil, applied to the nerve of a tooth, soon destroys its sensitiveness, and quiets the pain. In purulent catarrhal affections of the urethra, *it acts like a charm.*

THE EUCALYPTUS AS AN INSECTIFUGE.

The *Garden* quotes from a private letter a statement, that the placing of a young plant of eucalyptus in a bed-room infested with mosquitoes, has been found sufficient to cause the disappearance of the insects.

VALUE OF FOOD.

All the food we eat yields to the body either warmth or strength. Most articles give both to a certain degree, some warmth only, and not a particle of strength. Of the latter, drippings, sweet-oil, butter, lard, molasses and sugar, are prominent; hence we use them in winter to produce heat.

The elements of food which give warmth and strength, are carbon and nitrogen, which being taken into the system, form fat and flesh; the fat, being consumed, makes the body a stove; the flesh, on the other hand, represents strength, or the muscles; hence, when a muscular man is spoken of, it is understood that he is a strong man.

The scientific analysis of food demonstrates that various kinds give various degrees of warmth and strength. A quart or pound of beer gives but one grain of strength; a pound of bread ninety grains; a pound of beef one hundred and seventy-five grains; while a pound of cheese, made out of skimmed-milk, yields three hundred and sixty-four grains of strength; whereas, a pound of fresh butter gives 4,800 grains of warmth, but not an atom of strength.

In *Health by Good Living*, we find the following table, containing the nutritive value of ordinary food, from which we extract. It speaks for itself in decided terms:

One lb. of	*Yields grains in strength.*	*One lb of*	*Yields grains of warmth.*
Beer or porter	1	Whey	150
Parsnips	12	Turnips	238
Turnips	12	Beer and porter	315
Whey	13	Buttermilk	335
Greens	14	Skimmed-milk	351
Potatoes	24	New-milk	378
Skimmed-milk	34	Carrots	390
New-milk	25	Parsnips	425
Buttermilk	35	Potatoes	770
Barley	70	Fresh-fish	980
Rice	70	Beef, liver	1,220
Bacon	98	Red-herrings	1,445
Rye-bread	89	Baker's-bread	1,990
Baker's-bread	90	Fresh-beef	2,300
Pearl-barley	91	Molasses	2,300
Fresh-pork	108	Skim-cheese	2,350
Seconds, flour	120	Chedder-cheese	2,550
Corn-meal	125	Seconds, flour	2,700
Fresh-fish	128	Rye-bread	2,700
Cocoa	130	Rice	2,750
Oatmeal	140	Barley-meal	2,780
Mutton	140	Indian-meal	2,800
Beef, fresh	172	Sugar	2,900
Beef, liver	200	Fresh-pork	3,100
Split-peas	250	Bacon	4,200
Chedder-cheese	310	Butter	4,700
Skim-cheese	360	Lard	4,800
		Drippings	5,500

This table should be in the hands of every intelligent person, and especially will it be found of great value to those wishing to make their small means go as far as possible towards sustaining life and strength.

There is a powerful argument in favor of temperance here. It will be noticed that while beer or porter yields one grain of strength to the pound, skimmed-cheese yields 364 grains; and yet we hear of the poor workman taking his beer to give him strength.

A careful study of the above table will assist in making us more comfortable, both in cool and warm weather, by adhering to the requirements above denoted.

OIL OF SANDAL-WOOD.

Besides its excellent properties in gonorrhœa, this drug is invaluable in chronic-bronchitis. The usual dose is from twenty to thirty gtts., on sugar, three times daily.

CHLORIDE OF AMMONIUM IN LUNACY.

Dr. D. R. Wallace, in his report as superintendent of the Texas Insane Asylum, says it is much to be regretted that, as a rule, the insane are not placed under hospital treatment as promptly in Texas as in the older States, and consequently complete restoration to health, if attainable, requires a much longer time than would be needed if the patients were sent earlier to the asylum. He earnestly combats the popular notion of the spiritual and functional character of mental derangement, and holds that it is a purely bodily disease, having as organic lesion changes in the condition of the brains or its membranes. "Grappled at once, as soon as its fell presence is recognized, [it] is of all grave maladies one of the most curable." As a therapeutic agent, the chloride of ammonium is largely used in the Texas asylum. The statement is made, that the preserving use of the drug has been attended with the happiest results, and has been credited with being instrumental in restoring to health several cases regarded as hopelessly incurable.

EMULSIONS OF RESINS.

Gassfr writes in the *Jour. de Pharm. d'Als-Lorr.:* Every practical druggist knows how difficult it is, during summer, to prepare emulsions of resinous substances, especially of ammoniacum. The following method will be found to obviate this difficulty: Rub or compress the resin, as well as it may be possible, in a mortar; pour upon it first an equal weight of water, then double the quantity of alcohol, and ignite the latter; as soon as the alcohol has all been burnt, add to the still warm mixture as much powdered gum-arabic as the original amount of resin employed, stir briskly, gradually add the excipient or other ingredients, and the emulsion will be finished. This is a modification of Oppermann's method.

COMPOUND SOLUTION OF SULPHATE OF SODA.

Sulphate of soda	2 ounces.
Sulphate of magnesia	1 ounce.
Water	12 ounces.

Dissolve.

EARLY TREATMENT IN DIPHTHERIA.

Dr. Garraway says, in the British *Medical Journal:* "In all cases of illness, when diphtheria is prevalent, it is expedient to look into the throat, as occasionally, when there is not even ground of suspicion, the characteristic spot or layer of mouldiness, like an irregular patch of white kid, will be discerned. Now is the time when we are enabled to say: 'Thus far shalt thou go and no further.' Now is the time when one single painting with a strong solution of nitrate of silver will effectually destroy the parasite and rescue the patient. Twenty-four hours after this application the 'white leather' is seen dark and shriveled, and the following day it has dropped off and disappeared. Contrast this with the same disease three days later on. I need not describe it; the picture has been only too vividly impressed upon the minds of all of us; the layer of deposit spreads more or less over the fauces, perhaps entering the larynx, when recovery can scarcely be looked for; the rapid pulse, the exalted temperature, the extreme nerve-prostration, the blood more hopelessly poisoned than in typhoid-fever, and death more imminent.

WOUNDS.

The secret of success in the treatment of wounds depends upon the removal of all foreign bodies; upon the arresting of hemorrhage; upon bringing the edges evenly and neatly together; in joining the edges with metallic sutures, and in keeping them there with adhesive strips and bandages; and lastly, in excluding atmospheric air. In all cases, sprinkling over the wound pulverized-borax is to be recommended as a mild, efficient anti-septic.

FOR SCARLATINA.

R. Tinct. ferri chloridi..... 2 drachms.
Potassi chloratis..... 2 drachms.
Quiniæ sulph.....16 grains.
Acidi muriat.....16 drops.
Aquæ cinnamomi, qs. ad..... 4 ounces. Misce.

Sig. Dessertspoonful every two hours for an adult.

SALICIN IN RHEUMATISM.

Dr. Maclagan has used salicin in rheumatism. He employed it in eight cases, and arrived at the following conclusions:

1. We have in salicin a valuable remedy in the treatment of acute-rheumatism.

2. The more acute the case, the more marked the benefit produced.

3. In acute cases, its beneficial action is generally apparent within twenty-four, always within forty eight, hours of its administration in sufficient dose.

4. Given thus at the commencement of the attack, it seems sometimes to arrest the course of the malady as effectively as quinine cures an ague, or ipecacuanha a dysentery.

5. The relief of pain is always one of the earliest effects produced.

6. In acute cases, relief of pain and a fall of temperature generally occur simultaneously.

7. In sub-acute cases, the pain is sometimes decidedly relieved before the temperature begins to fall; this is especially the case when, as is frequently observed in those of nervous temperament, the pain is proportionally greater than the abnormal rise of temperature.

8. In chronic-rheumatism, salicin sometimes does good where other remedies fail; but it also sometimes fails where others do good.

The dose employed was from ten to thirty grains every two, three, or four hours, according to the severity of the case. Fifteen grains every three hours, Mr. Pemberton conceives to be a medium dose for an acute case.—[*London Lancet.*

CARLSBAD-WATER IN DIABETES.

Prof. Seegen, in a monograph on the waters of Carlsbad, states that improvement takes place in the general health of all diabetic patients while using these waters. In the greater number of cases, the exertion of sugar diminishes. It is only in very severe cases that no effect of this kind is observed. Not unfrequently, tolerance of the use of carbo-hydrates is observed. —[*Wien. Med. Woch.*

TREATMENT OF RHEUMATIC-ARTHRITIS WITH SALICYLIC-ACID.

All cases of articular-rheumatism which have presented themselves at Traube's clinic for some months, in whom the local affections were marked, have been treated with salicylic-acid. The pure pulverized-acid was given in doses of 0.5—1.00, and the patient in no instance took less than 5.0 or more than 15 grms. daily. The results which were attained were surprising, for all the patients, after the lapse of forty-eight hours (the majority of them much sooner), were freed not only from increase of bodily temperature, but also, what is of much more importance, from all local symptoms.

These observations were fourteen in number, and Stricker regards salicylic-acid as the most active, and, perhaps, almost a specific remedy for acute articular-rheumatism.—[*Berliner Klin Wochenschrift.*

EMPTY PHIAL AS A MEASURE.

In the *British Medical Journal*, Dr. Wm. Frazer, of Dublin, says: "I invariably order, with all important medicines, an empty phial to be sent to contain the exact dose required. As a rule, a half-ounce phial is most convenient, for it indicates the medical tablespoon; a two-drachm phial answers for the dessert-spoon, and the ounce phial, of course, speaks for itself. I have found no cause for complaint about doses since adopting this simple plan; one of the principal recommendations of it, next to its accuracy, being its extreme cheapness."

SOFT HANDS.

To preserve the smoothness and softness of the hands, keep a small bottle of glycerine near the place where you habitually wash them, and whenever you have finished washing, and before wiping them, put one or two drops of the glycerine on the wet palm, and rub the hands thoroughly with it as if it were soap; then dry lightly with a towel. Household work and bad weather will not prevent your skin from being smooth and soft, if this plan of using glycerine is followed.

VIRCHOW'S VIEWS OF TYPHOID-FEVER.

In relation to city cleansing, comprehend, especially, a comparison of the causes and mortality of that disease in Hamburg, Berlin, Prague and Halle. He shows by statistical tables that this disease is most prevalent and the mortality greater where there is least attention given to drainage and water-supply; and that it decreases and reaches its lowest degree of prevalence in proportion to the effectiveness of drainage and purity of the potable-water. He fears more the uncleanliness of the surface than the underground-water, and he mentions this being one point on which he differs from Pettenkofer. "Clean underground-water in clean ground will never produce typhoid-fever, no matter how high or how low it stands." Another point of difference between the author and Pettenkofer lies in Virchow's belief in the contagiousness of typhoid-fever, although he adds that it may only be taken up after long exposure. There is no doubt, he admits, that in Munich as well as in Berlin, there exists a certain relation between sinking and rising of underground-water and rising or sinking of typhoid-fever; but we are taught by small (house) epidemics, especially, that typhoid-fever may be carried from one place to another, and that it can be transferred by contagion.

FOR ALCOHOLIC EXCESS.

The following prescription has been recommended as a restorative after alcoholic excess:

RECIPE.

Pot. bromide	½	drachm.
Spts. am. aromat	2	drachms.
Inf. gent. co	6	ounces.

Sig. Half an ounce three or four times a day.—[*Medical Reporter.*

RELAXED CONDITIONS OF THE MOUTH AND THROAT.

Take myrrh	1	drachm.
Alum	1	drachm.
Glycerine	1	ounce.

Mix. Apply to affected part.

ELIXIR OF LIQUORICE.

The formulæ of elixir of liquorice, recommended by Mr. G. G. C. Sims, and used for disguising the taste of quinia and other nauseous powders, is as follows:

Liquorice-root, ground	32 ounces.
Caraway-seeds	6 drachms.
Star-anise	16 drachms.
Coriander	10 drachms.
Cinnamon-bark	16 drachms.
Water	9 quarts.
Alcohol (95 per cent)	1 quart.
Sugar (white)	80 Troy ozs.

Macerate the spices with the alcohol, mixed with one pint of water, for seven days, frequently agitating; transfer to a percolator, and when the liquid ceases to drop, pour on the same menstruum until three pints have been obtained. Digest the liquorice with the water for two hours, then bring to the boiling point, and boil for fifteen minutes; express strongly, and mix the decoction with the tincture of aromatics; let it stand for twenty-four hours, and filter. Add to the filtrate, the sugar, and agitate until dissolved; again filter, and the elixir is ready for use.

In a subsequent note, Mr. Sims says, that in order that the taste of quinia should be effectually disguised, it should be *added at the time of taking*, using no acid.—[*Drug Circular.*

PILLS FOR OBSTINATE NEURALGIA.

The *Bordeaux Medical* gives the following formula for obstinate neuralgia, especially ileo-lumbar neuralgia: Valerianate of ammonia and quinine, each 30 grains; make into twenty pills, and take from two to ten of them each day, increasing one pill per diem. After taking these pills for ten days, suspend their use for five days.

DIABETES.

Pulv. valerian, in doses of fifteen grains, three times a day, gradually increased to twenty grains, five times a day, has proved of marked benefit in cases where all other remedies were unavailing.

A MORE EFFECTUAL MODE OF APPLYING IODINE TO THE INTERIOR OF CERTAIN CYSTS.

Mr. Furneux Jordan, in some notes in the *Lancet*, remarks that he has found in practice two classes of scrotal-hydroceles, in which the ordinary methods of treatment are either difficult to use or uncertain in their result. In boys and men there are occasionally encysted-hydroceles of the testis, or the cord, which continue to increase in size, or in which treatment is urgently requested. In such cases, except in early infancy, acupuncture, or the use of a fine trocar, often fails to cure. The walls of the cysts are usually thin, and collapse so much, when their contents are withdrawn, that the injection of a fluid is uncertain. The end of the canula may be outside the cyst, and the iodine solution be consequently injected into the connective tissue at its exterior. In such cases the following is a reliable method of treatment:

"The cyst being well isolated, made tense, and brought near the surface, I pass through its centre a stout needle, armed with silk, and leave the threads hanging. The fluid quickly oozes away, especially if a little traction be made on the threads. I then, at one opening, wet the threads with iodine-liniment (liniment, because the quantity required is so limited), and draw the threads so as to leave moistened portions within the cyst. A little gentle friction will help to spread the iodine thoroughly over the lining membrane of the cavity. An hour later, freshly-moistened portions may again be drawn through, if the cyst be large, or if other methods of treatment have failed. On the other hand, in a very small cyst, a single thread, moistened and kept in one hour, will suffice.

"Another class of cases are those of simple vaginal-hydrocele, in which the injection of iodine and other ordinary methods of treatment are unsuccessful. An interesting case will best convey what I wish to say: A young man had a moderate-sized hydrocele. Trocar-puncture and acupuncture, repeated a few times, failed, and, consequently, iodine-tincture (undiluted) was injected. In a few weeks, the collection had reached its old size. A silver-wire seton was then put in; while in the cyst remained empty, but its removal was followed by reappearance of the fluid. I then, at 3 o'clock, passed through the cavity a double-silk thread, at two spots. In a few minutes, when all the

fluid had oozed out, I drew the threads, moistened with iodine-liniment, into the serous cavity. I directed him to repeat the process in an hour. He was so anxious to get well (he was shortly to be married) that he moistened the thread four times in six hours. At midnight, the effects had become so sharp that he was glad to remove the threads, as he had been directed. He remained at home one day only, and was shortly and permanently well.

"I venture to believe that no kind of hydrocele will resist this method of applying iodine, and, consequently, that the setting up of suppuration, even as a last resort, can rarely be necessary."

CAUSE OF CONSUMPTION.

Not by bad colds, nor hereditary predisposition, nor drinking liquor, nor tight lacing—for men do not lace, and yet as many of them die of consumption as women; few habitual drinkers die of that disease; and as for hereditary taint and bad colds, millions of the latter have gotten well of themselves, while the naturally feeble are compelled to a habitual carefulness of themselves, which gives them, in multitudes of cases, an immunity against all disease except that of old age.

The very essence of consumption is a decline in flesh. Flesh is made of the food we eat; if that food does not give flesh, does not sustain the proper proportion of it, we begin to fade, and fail, and consume away.

But as there is not one in a hundred-thousand who has not a plenty of food, and yet one out of every nine in the Union dies of consumption every year, the cause of that malady is not a want of food, although it is a want of flesh; and yet, only food can give flesh. It must, then, be from the fact that, although we have a plenty of food, that food does not give the amount of flesh and strength which it ought to. The process by which food gives flesh is a double one—digestion and assimilation; in other words, it is the taking of the nourishment from the food and distributing it to the body at various points.

The human body is much like a clock, with its many wheels; if one goes slow the others go slow, and bad time is the result; if one little wheel of the body (one organ or one gland) works

imperfectly or slowly, all the others are influenced thereby, and lag also. But what is the wheel which oftenest gets out of gear? It is the liver. What infallible telegraphic signal is always made when the liver is out of order? It is constipation of the bowels. In a natural, healthful state of the human body, the bowels act at least once a day; less than that is a certain indication that the liver is halting in its pace, and if the admonition is allowed to remain long unheeded, disease is as inevitable as the falling of a stone when cast from the hand. The moment constipation commences, that moment the blood begins to become impure and poor; loses its life and heat, and the body chills; "the least thing in the world" causes a chill to run along the back, or gives a cold outright; and a cold being so easily contracted, before one is cured another comes on, and that cold is continued, and this is the synonym of consumption! This article might, therefore, be closed with the important practical inference that, by avoiding or correcting constipation, very many of those diseases might be avoided or cured which arise from impure blood. But another step may be taken with great advantage. What makes the liver grow slow in its action? what makes it torpid or work weakly? For the same reason that an over-worked horse, or servant, or man becomes slower and slower in every motion.

The liver has a certain amount of bile to manufacture every day; this bile is made out of the blood; if that blood be of a good quality every day, the work is regularly performed and well done, for the space of a hundred years!—[*Hall's Jour. of Health.*

ALL children under five years of age will be made the better, healthier, happier, and more good-natured by an undisturbed sleep of one or two hours in the forenoon.

Children under eighteen months may require two day-naps in summer-time.

If a child is regularly put to sleep at the same time, for only three or four days in succession, the habit will so rapidly grow upon it, that with the aid of quiet, and a little darkening of the room, it will, if well, fall to sleep within a few minutes of the time, for weeks and months in succession—such is Nature's love for system and regularity.

SOME HEALTH-PRINCIPLES.

No small share of disease and suffering is owing to the error of one man making another's experience a guide for himself in matters pertaining to bodily health. Nothing can be more true than that one may do with impunity what would kill another. We know a lady who will instantly take cold if she passes across a room or hall which has just been washed. The life of such a person would seem to hang on a very uncertain tenure. But, like a true philosopher, having found that passing through a recently-washed room gives her a cold, she simply avoids it; and now, at the full age of threescore years and ten, scarcely misses a meal from sickness in a whole year.

When a man finds out that his constitution is a frail one, his wisest plan is to study its infirmities, to find out its weak points, and, like a beleagured general, the winner of a hundred victories, be always on his guard as to those weak points. An old hat is never made better by being banged about, while by care, it may be made to look *respectable* for years longer. A worn-out horse obtains no reinvigoration by hard usage. A man's body, whether frail or strong, is made capable of greater endurance by being well watched over. And take our word for it, *the best way to harden the constitution is to take care of it.*

That the popular sentiment should prevail that the human constitution is hardened by exposure, when there is nothing like it in the whole range of animated nature, must be classed among the unaccountabilities.

Some men thrive in spite of a given evil habit. This arises from two distinct causes: a vigorous constitution, or from the nature of the human body to adapt itself to the evils of life.

NITRITE OF AMYL IN HICCOUGH.

Dr. Simon reports, in the Chicago *Medical Journal and Examiner* that a patient who had hiccoughed for twenty-six hours, and been subjected to various treatments without success was relieved almost instantaneously by inhaling three drops of amyl-nitric.

TREATMENT OF CYSTS.

Simple puncture should be made only for diagnosis. Every genuine cyst must be injected with iodine. One should use a trocar sufficiently large, so that small masses may come out. If the cystic-fluid contains much sediment, or many granular pieces which have broken off, Lucke considers it very important to wash out the cyst with warm water before injecting the iodine (ten to twenty grammes, according to the size of the cyst). The puncture is carefully closed with sticking-plaster or collodion. In many cases, cures take place. Some operators, wishing to encourage suppuration, inject a dilute solution of chloride of iron, and leave in the canula (Mackenzie).

Incision of the cyst is well esteemed by Lucke. After an incision has been made down to the cyst-wall, this should be stitched to the skin on either side, and the cut into the cyst made between the stitches. If the operation be done in this manner, the bleeding will be less. After the contents of the cyst are evacuated, bleeding from the incision in the cyst-wall is best stopped by plugging with lint. Cure takes place by suppuration, and one must take care that the external opening does not close too soon. Secondary hemorrhage is the accident most to be feared as suppuration goes on. The vessels cannot usually be found, and plugging up the cavity must be resorted to. Purulent infiltration and septicæmia are also possible; usually, however, only in conjunction with hemorrhage in persons already enfeebled. In other respects, the results of this mode of treatment are very brilliant. Sometimes after the cyst is laid bare, the connections with the surrounding tissues may be so loose that it will be better to practice extirpation.

IMPROVED CATHARTIC-PILLS.

The subjoined formula has been recommended:

Podophyllin	30 grains.
Compound extract of colocynth	30 grains.
Extract of jalap	30 grains.
Extract of hyoscyamus	10 grains.
Powdered capsicum	6 grains.
Oil of peppermint	6 drops.

Mix. To make 60 pills. Dose, from one to three.—[*Drug Circular.*

TREATMENT OF CHRONIC BRIGHT'S DISEASE.

The following is a summary, from the New York *Medical Journal*, of a plan of treatment recommended at the Bellevue Hospital, New York:

Diet. This class of patients should abstain as much as possible from meats. The opinion has been expressed that the excessive animal-diet accounts for the great prevalence of the disease in America. Milk should be substituted for meat, and should be associated with lime. Butter may be used; eggs, if they agree, and fresh fish in the morning. Fried fats should be carefully excluded, but cream may be taken without stint. Vegetables and fruit are *always* good, but those should be selected which contain the least amount of woody-fibre. Rice and potatoes, therefore, may be used, but asparagus, turnips, cabbage, and notably beans, which contain woody-fibre in large quantities, should be assiduously avoided. Onions may be eaten with impunity, and are rather beneficial.

For the Anæmia, iron should be administered from the first to the last, and by preference, the tincture of chloride. This preparation is assimilated with difficulty, hence should not be given alone, but combined with nux-vomica, and to this spirits of nitre may be added, to assist the determination towards the kidneys. For example: ten drops of the tincture of chloride of iron, ten drops of tincture nucis-vomica, and one drachm of sweet spirits of nitre, may be given three times a day. Cod-liver-oil increases the red corpuscles of the blood, because it is digested by the liver, and the product enters into them as an ingredient. The irritability of the stomach may make it troublesome to take, but it should be relied upon as much as in the treatment of phthisis.

To Combat the Disease Itself, we have one agent which may be regarded as a specific against the increase of connective tissue in the body, wherever the interstitial inflammation may occur, and that is, the bi-chloride of mercury. It should be given in small doses—one-twentieth of a grain is the usual amount, and should be combined with a diuretic, to make it act upon the kidneys. For example: one-twentieth of a grain of bi-chloride, one grain of digitalis, and one grain of quinine may be given three times a day, with the result of producing specific action upon the kidneys, and will *raise* the specific gravity of the urine.

Attention to the Condition of the Skin, will materially assist the embarrassed kidneys, and to do this we may have recourse to two things. If excessive œdema is present, the pressure produced shuts off the circulation to a great extent, and prevents removal of the fluid by diaphoresis. It is much better than to make punctures in the distended skin of the legs, and let the water drain away at once, No apprehension need be had with reference to this trifling operation, if the limb, when the punctures have been made, is wrapped with cloths wet in a solution of carbolic-acid in water, to which has been added essence or oil of cinnamon. The latter is to correct the smell of the carbolic-acid, and is also equally anti-septic. The second thing is, to rub the patient all over once a day with sweet-oil. If extra diaphoresis is desirable, it can be best obtained by placing a blanket in an empty bucket and pouring hot water upon it, for in this way much less water is required, and then wringing it out and quickly applying it around the body and covering it with a dry blanket. The skin should be well oiled before the blanket is applied.

PASTE for scrap-books that will not cause the print on the opposite side to strike through the paper: We can recommend ordinary flour-paste with the addition of about five per cent. of alum. To keep the paste from spoiling, a little carbolic-acid and about five grains of corrosive-sublimate to the pound may be added. The acid has the effect of preventing the formation of microscopic growths and animalcules, and the bi-chloride effectually keeps away the flies and winged insects, which are apt to lay their eggs in the paste, where they will hatch in spite of the carbolic-acid. Recently, salicylic-acid has been used for the same purpose.

SCROFULOUS SORES.

A Scotch clergyman states, in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, for March, 1876, that three grains of corrosive-sublimate in a pint of whisky constitutes an almost infallible remedy in scrofulous sores or runnings. A rag dipped in this twice or thrice a day should be kept on the ulcers until healed.

THE SPREAD OF CHOLERA.

The following, from the *Practitioner*, is an abstract of Dr. Hirsch's conclusions from the whole of his inquiry upon this important subject:

1. *Spread through the traffic of men.*—He says that the fact is confirmed on all sides that the introduction of cholera into Prussian-Poland and Prussia was by the Galician raftsmen, and that this was invariably the case. Then from the towns or villages where cholera was thus introduced, and where it spread epidemically in some cases, it spread to places laying far from the river, by inland traffic. "The introduction," writes Hirsch, "was proved with certainty to be either through inhabitants of the place who had been attacked with cholera in other infected places, or through sick persons who had traveled to the place, and everywhere the course of the disease from an individual to his neighbors could be followed."

2. *Spread through dead bodies, linen, clothing, and straw.* The carriage by dead bodies seemed probable, while that by clothing and straw was undeniable. With regard to soiled clothes, he mentioned the following cases: The clothes of a raftsman, dead of cholera, were stolen and taken to the house of a poor family in the village of Cruzno; the woman of the house and the children sickened with cholera; they were the first cases in the village, and from them proceeded a murderous outbreak. In a village near Culmsee, there died all the inhabitants of a house into which linen from a cholera patient, dead at Culmsee, had been brought. After thorough purification of this house, no more cases occurred in that village. Two other similar cases are given.

With regard to straw, Hirsch speaks with some doubt, but refers to some apparent instances, and thinks it a matter to be carefully looked to.

3. *Spread through drinking-water.*—Hirsch seems to have no doubt of the influence in spreading cholera of impure drinking-water, but he still thinks it not decided which of the following views is correct, viz.: (1) whether the impure water contains something *specific*; or (2), whether the water merely exerts an injurious influence which *predisposes* to an attack. He relates several instances which certainly seem to give greater weight to the first explanation than to the second.

4. *Spread influenced by ground.*—It so happens that the ground-water, during the whole of this year, was low; in the vistula, the water-level was extraordinarily low. Hirsch does not, however, conclude much from this. He remarks that in many places the disposition of low-laying parts of towns to be attacked was very marked; there were, however, some exceptions, and he notices two: in Sodgorz, the high-laying places were more attacked than the low-laying, and one of the most severe outbreaks was in a group of houses on an elevation which dominates the whole place. In Elbing, the worst outbreak was in a high and dry street, with houses built on pure sand.

5. *Influence of social distress.*—There is no doubt that cholera is very closely influenced by social distress and poverty. Hirsch does not trace out the connection, which, however, in many cases seems easy enough.

TO CHECK EPISTAXIS.

Dr. J. Gardner writes to the *British Medical Journal:* "Las year an old gentleman under my care, between seventy and eighty years of age, who had periodical attacks of bleeding from the nostrils, which had generally been stopped by plugging, was becoming exhausted from the loss of blood; and, the usual application not succeeding, I mixed equal parts of the tincture of sesqui-chloride of iron and water, about two drachms of each, and injected it up the nostrils with a glass-syringe. This immediately stopped the bleeding. The bleeding, however, should not, I think, be checked too soon, as in most instances it is a provision of nature to relieve the vessels of the head. I have found, also, syringing with a glass-syringe of great benefit in throat affections, where there is difficulty in using a gargle, especially in children."

NERVOUS-HEADACHE AND NEURALGIA.

Quinine	24 grains.
Tannin	18 grains.
Ext. aconite	6 grains.

Mix and divide in 24 pills.

Sig. One pill night and morning.

TREATMENT OF BURNS AND SCALDS.

At the Gratz Medical Congress, Dr. Nitzche, who is surgeon to several factories in Austria, stated that he had noticed that the workmen who met with burns obtain much relief from the application of varnish. This forms a protecting covering in the absence of epidermis, and granulation and cicatrization are favored. Dr. Nitzsche thought he could improve upon this, and tried to keep away Pasteur's germs, by adding first carbolic-acid, and subsequently salicylic-acid, to the varnish. He considers that he thus succeeded in many cases in effecting prompt healing.

DISEASES OF THE EAR.

Dr. Turnbull says: Now, in connection with the treatment of diseases of the ear in little children, I want to impress upon you that some, if not most, of the cases of deafness, and even of deaf-mutism, in the community of to-day, have been caused by the neglect and carelessness of physicians. A child is suffering with earache. Does the physician, as a rule, take the child to the light and examine the parts, to see whether he has to deal with abscess, a perforation or inflammation of the membrana-tympani, disease of the internal ear or mastoid-cells, or simply neuralgia? No; he writes a prescription for a little laudanum and sweet-oil, with, perhaps, a little belladonna, and says to the mother, "Here, place this in the child's ear; that will make it all right." But, except in a few instances, it does not. Many cases have presented themselves at my clinic at the Howard Hospital, of chronic disease of the ear of young adults, where the tympanic-membrane is entirely destroyed, the chain of bones gone, and the function of the ear forever lost. Why? I ask the mother, "How did this happen?" And I often hear the answer, "The child had an earache when she was little, and the doctor told me to put in some laudanum and sweet-oil; but the ear has been discharging ever since." When the girl grows up and wants to get married, she thinks of her ear. She is ashamed of it, and wants to get it well. She comes to the clinic, and I examine the ear, and find nothing but the sclerosed, shining promontory to look at, and am obliged to tell her that

it is too late to do anything except protect it from external influences, or from affecting the brain. This is not an exaggerated case. No physician of intelligence would prescribe for or treat a disease of any other accessible portion of the body without carefully examining it and making a diagnosis; and why should the ear be an exception? I have drummed this into the ears of physicians for nearly thirty years, and will continue to do so as long as I am able. Every physician should carry a nest of two or three specula for the ear in his pocket or pocket-case, and, in every severe ear-case, look at the part before prescribing treatment. There is no difficulty about it.

In the treatment of neuralgia of the ear, I more often apply a leech to the mastoid process, or at the base of the tragus, and warm fomentations, and give chloride and bromide of potassium internally, than anything else. If there is an abscess, it must be opened. No single remedy or line of treatment is applicable to all cases.

OBESITY.

A writer advises people who are becoming too fat to observe the following dietetic rules: Those of light complexion, fair skin, etc., to use a red diet, such as beef, mutton and venison; while those of more color—that is, somewhat florid—a light diet, such as veal, quail, oysters, and the white meat of fowls. Grapes, apples and gooseberries are permitted, while all vegetables of the sweet or farinaceous variety should be avoided. White sugar, butter, cheese, potatoes, pastries, rice, beans and peas, are not considered good for those who are growing too obese. *Plenty of exercise is advantageous.*

PRURITUS IN PREGNANCY.

R. Sodæ borax..... ½ ounce.
Morph. sulph..... 6 grains.
Aquæ rosæ distil..... 8 ounces.

Apply three or four times daily, with a bit of sponge; first washing the parts with tepid water and soap, and dry them before applying the lotion.

EFFECTS OF JABORANDI ON THE EYE.

J. Tweedy finds that the application of the extract of jaborandi to the conjunctiva produces narrowing of the pupil, defects of accommodation, and depression of visual powers—the last being apparently due to a diminution of the sensibility of the retina. None of these symptoms are of long duration: the defective accommodation begins in a quarter of an hour, reaches its maximum in forty minutes, and vanishes within an hour and a half.—[*Lancet.*

THE TREATMENT OF STHENIC-PNEUMONIA.

Dr. C. L. Myers has the following suggestions on this topic, in the Cincinnati *Lancet and Observer:*

"Carbonate of ammonia is one of the best remedies. Milk is the best menstruum in which to give it. Milk is also good as food. Muriate of ammonia is useful in the stage of resolution, as it is thought to hasten it as well as to act favorably upon the secretory organs. In the low adynamic form of pneumonia, where the pulse is as frequent as 130, or even 150 per minute, where the respirations are forty or more, and labored, where there is great restlessness and sleeplessness, and where the skin is inclined to a dusky hue, alcoholic stimulants are indispensable. The quantity to be given depends upon the urgency of the symptoms. I know of no disease wherein the use of whisky or wine produces so much good in a short length of time as in the one under consideration. Some persons can drink a pint or more in twenty-four hours, and improve with its use. Children can take amazing quantities. A tablespoonful or more may be taken every hour in bad cases. It is best, as a general thing, to give it in milk. Carbonate of ammonia may be added; and this use of stimulants kept up for several successive hours. I have often seen patients tormented with dyspnœa almost to distraction, the pulse 150 per minute, where sleep, though so much coveted and desired, could not be obtained, and where death seemed to be inevitable, rapidly change to more ease, so soon as a large drink of whisky has been taken. The respirations would be lessened in number, the dyspnœa would not be so unbearable, and soft, sweet sleep would soon be announced by the

well-known murmur of slumber. All physicians who have used stimulants in bad cases know this, for they have seen for themselves. But stimulants certainly must not be given indiscriminately. The effect must be watched, for now and then one will not be able to bear near so much as the general number, and even in some it may do positive harm. Alcoholic stimulants, to my mind, are not so efficient if nausea and eructations annoy, to any great extent, after swallowed. I think it will be found that in those cases where whisky or brandy acts so like a charm, it does not sicken; or, in common phrase, "turn the stomach." If whisky is so disagreeable in large doses, they will have to be diminished; or, perhaps, it would be better to substitute wine. It seems to be the custom to give large doses of sulphate of quinia with the stimulants. Quinine may aid very much in giving tone to the nerves, but it is very probable that where it proves so useful malaria is the producing trouble; for, as I have said, these low forms of pneumonia are often caused by malarial element.

ITEMS.

An Englishman, who insulated his bedstead by placing underneath each post a broken-off bottom of a glass-bottle, says that he had not been free from rheumatic-gout for fifteen years, and that he began to improve immediately after the application of the insulators. A local paper, quoting this item, wisely adds: "There's many a fellow who could cure his gout, if he would break off the bottoms of his glass-bottles in time."

THE *intermittent pulse* is extremely common with dyspeptics, nervous invalids, sedentary persons, and those who are subject to constipation, and also with old persons. It not unfrequently occasions great alarm, being erroneously supposed to indicate aneurism, heart-disease, or some other formidable and fatal malady. It indicates thick, viscid blood, capillary obstruction, or nervous exhaustion. Overloading a weak stomach almost always produces an intermittent pulse for a time, as do night-suppers, and going to bed soon after eating.

A SIMPLE MEANS OF ARRESTING OBSTINATE EPISTAXIS, REBELLIOUS TO ALL TREATMENT.

An abundant epistaxis resisted all the means usually resorted to for arresting such hemorrhages—mustard foot-baths (cold), ice to the nucha, plugging of the nasal orifices, elevation of the arms, injection of the per-chloride of iron, as practiced by my friend M. Crequy, etc. If the patient be not already enfeebled, fainting spells will soon come on if the hemorrhage continue. What is to be done? A simple means has frequently succeeded in my hands: A light emetic, quickly administered, soon provokes nausea, then vomiting, and the hemorrhage is incontinently arrested. This plan of treatment has proved very successful this summer, during the great heats.—[*Trib. Med.*, *Dr. G.*

HABITUAL CONSTIPATION.

BY PROF. FRANK H. HAMILTON.

There is a popular error—and I am afraid the error is not confined to persons outside of the medical profession—that constipation can be cured by enemata, taken regularly. In my experience, they have always failed to establish a cure; and the reasons of their failure are apparent:

First: Injections remove from the rectum its mucous, which is of great importance in facilitating defecation, and in preventing the fæcal mass from becoming hard and dry. In the healthy condition of the victim, the mucous is very abundant; but injections wash it away, and it is not likely to accumulate in sufficient quantity before the next period of defecation.

Second: The principal, active cause of regular defecation is the pressure of the fæcal column upon the rectum and its sphynctur. In ordinary defecation, the entire column is pushed downward by peristaltic action and the action of the abdominal muscles, and only that portion which is thrust out is removed; so that there still remains within the sphynctur, or not far removed, a portion of the descending mass, ready to cause the requisite pressure, and to demand extension on the following morning. If an enema has been employed, a large portion of the lower end of the column has been removed, and the remaining portion is not likely to descend in time to make pressure and cause the desire to stool.

Third: The patient loses the "habit" of spontaneous defecation, and acquires a habit of reliance upon injections. The value of this observation will be well understood by those of you who have had much experience in the management of constipation.

There are many ways of overcoming habitual constipation—such as the use of laxative food, or of mildly laxative medicine, the use of small doses of ext. nuc. vomicæ—perhaps one-eighth of a grain daily, and the observance of regularity in the hour of visiting the water-closet, which seldom fail, if continued for a long time, but enemata will almost always disappoint you. —[*Bellevue Clinic.*

SPASMODIC-ASTHMA.

Dr. Jones was called to a young married woman suffering from asthma; found her sitting on the bed, holding to the bed-post. Her surface was of a dusky, leaden hue, bedewed with sweat and cold, especially in feet and hands, which were icy. Pulse could hardly be felt, and she was making the most violent efforts to breathe. She could not speak, only making a few faint gasps. Five drops of the nitrite of amyl were applied to her nostrils on a piece of lint. In a minute her face was deeply flushed, her heart palpitating, carotids beating, surface warm, respiration easy, and she was able to converse.—[*British Medical Journal.*

CURE FOR CORNS.

A correspondent to the *Scientific American* writes as follows, to one who asks for a remedy for corns: "Bind raw cotton on your corn at night before going to bed, and then saturate the cotton with spirits-turpentine. It will remove the most obstinate corn, either hard or soft, in four or five applications. The skin will be apt to peel off the toe; but this is rather an advantage, as it helps to remove the corn.

SULPHITE-LIME.

A weak lotion of this agent will destroy the parasite formation in apthæ more rapidly than any other anti-septic.

TREATMENT OF STAMMERING.

One of the dailies contain a letter, which appears trustworthy, written by a gentleman who stammered from childhood almost up to manhood, and who gives a very simple remedy for the misfortune: "Go into a room where you will be quiet and alone; get some book that will interest but not excite you, and sit down and read two hours aloud, to yourself, keeping your teeth together. Do the same thing every two or three days, or once a week, if very tiresome, always taking care to read slowly and distinctly, moving the lips, but not the teeth. Then, when conversing with others, try to speak as slowly and distinctly as possible, and make up your mind that you will not stammer. Well, I tried this remedy, not having much faith in it, I must confess, but willing to do almost anything to cure myself of such an annoying difficulty. I read for two hours aloud, with my teeth together. The first result was to make my tongue and jaws ache—that is, while I was reading; and the next, to make me feel as if something had loosened my talking apparatus, for I could speak with less difficulty immediately. The change was so great that every one who knew me remarked it. I repeated the remedy every five or six days for a month, and then at longer intervals, until cured."

REMEDY FOR NEURALGIA.

R. Acidi arseniosi ..... 4 grains.
Strychniæ sulphatis ..... 3 grains.
Extracti belladonnæ ..... 24 grains.
Cinchoniæ sulphatis ..... 3 drachms.
Pilulæ ferri carbonatis ..... 5 drachms.
M. Fiat pilulæ, 120.

Signa.—Each pill contains 1-30th grain of arsenic, 1-4th grain of strychnia, 1-5th grain of belladonna, 1½ grain of cinchonia, and 2½ grains of Vallet's mass.—[*From the Pharmacopia of Philadelphia Hospital.*

OXALATE-CERIUM.

This agent is unquestionably the best for allaying all irritability of the stomach incidental to pregnancy in doses of five grains every three hours.

CARDIAC-DISEASE.

Dr. W. A. Madden, who had cardiac-disease, and whose father died of angina-pectoris, relates the successful use of nitrite of amyl in his own case. His paroxysms were of frequent occurrence and of increased violence. The amyl strangled the spasm ats it birth. It certainly did not last two minutes instead of the old weary twenty. The frequency of the paroxysms was not diminished for sometime, but they were mere bagatelles as compared with their predecessors. The attacks became less and less frequent and finally ceased.—[*Practitioner.*

A CASE OF OPIUM-POISONING.

BY A. R. ALLEY, M. D.

A. was called in consultation with Dr. W. R. D. Thompson, of this city, to see a young lady, Miss ——, aged 18, who had taken one and a half ounces of laudanum. Dr. Thompson arrived some twenty-five minutes after she had taken the above-named quantity, and found her almost in a moribund condition, with symptoms of an alarming nature, and in a semi-comatose state; pulse, about 30 beats per minute; contracted pupils (small pin-hole), with excessive congestion of conjunctiva; stertorous breathing, with extremities cold and livid; with cutes-anserina. We gave her sulph.-zinc, 20 grains, pulv.-ipecac, 15 grains, until free emeses was established. It being impossible to procure a stomach-pump, we resorted to this method, and facilitated free emeses by giving her warm water until we were confident that the stomach was most thoroughly evacuated. We then gave her a solution, composed of:

R. Sulph.-atropia..... 10-17 grains.
Aqua, dist..... 40-17 ounces.

Sig. Teaspoonful.

Gave her a teaspoonful at a dose every fifteen minutes until 1½ grains had been taken by the mouth; the pupils dilated; increased pulse; using mustard cataplasms to wrists and thighs, along with flagellations with wet towels, constantly kept up until the reaction had commenced; pulse increased, and skin became warm. Whisky was then given her, in free and large doses, until reaction was thoroughly restored and all toxical effects of the opium subsided.

This young lady was never in the habit of taking any preparation of opium. Being a "love affair," she had resorted to this method of committing suicide.

This case presents one of the most aggravated of opium-poisoning. The large quantity taken, and sometime having elapsed before any medical aid was summoned, would this not be considered a case of extreme poisoning? Yet it was controlled and its toxical efforts arrested by prompt and large doses of atropia. The symptoms, from the commencement, were of the gravest character, and called for a quick and heroic remedy, which was administered, and a speedy recovery resulted, and the life of a young person was saved by a prompt and certain antidote for opium.—[*Atlanta Medical and Surgical Journal.*

SEA-SICKNESS.

Dr. Clapham tried the nitrite of amyl in one hundred and twenty-four cases; of these one hundred and twenty-one proved eminently satisfactory, there being no return of the vomiting after the administration of the nitrite; the remaining three cases being only unsatisfactory so far as they required a further dose or two of the remedy. It produces a warm and comfortable glow, which takes the place of the chilly-sweat, so disagreeable in this disease, and this is usually followed in the course of half an hour by a pleasant slumber, from which the patient wakes to eat a hearty meal. It should be inhaled in the recumbent position, so as to insure the after-sleep.—[*Lancet.*

COMPOUND CATHARTIC ELIXIR.

Powdered Peruvian-bark	2	ounces.
Butternut (the inner bark of the root, dried and bruised)	2	ounces.
Senna	2	ounces.
Dried peppermint	1	ounce.
Fennel-seed, bruised	1	ounce.
Black cherry-bark, powdered	1	ounce.
Poplar-bark, powdered	1	ounce.
Pure alcohol of 95 per cent	1	quart.
Distilled-water	1½	quart.
Simple syrup	1½	pint.

Digest for fourteen days, and strain. Dose, one tablespoonful, once a day.

UTERINE-POLYPUS.

A patient, aged forty-nine, entered Dr. Emmet's service, saying that she had been under treatment for falling of the womb. There had been no bloody discharge from the vagina for eighteen months; and when she was placed on the examining-table, a mass of the size of an almond was found to be attached to the posterior lip of the cervix. There was no distress occasioned by the growth. Treatment: the patient was anæsthetized, and then the uterus drawn down by means of a tenaculum, and a slip-noose placed around the pedicle, and the growth cut off with the scissors. The after-treatment consisted in making an application of Churchill's tincture of iodine every few days. After ten days, the patient was completely recovered.

SYRUP OF LACTOPHOSPHATE OF LIME.

Concentrated lactic-acid	1 Troy ounce.
Magma of phosphate of lime, sufficient.	
Orange-flower-water	1½ fluid ounce.
Water, enough to complete	8 " "
Sugar	11 ounces.

Dissolve in the lactic-acid as much of the phosphate as it will take up, add the water, filter and dissolve the sugar in the filtrate without heat.

HICCOUGH.

Dr. Simon reports that a patient who had hiccoughed for twenty-six hours, and been subjected to various treatments without success, was relieved almost instantaneouly by inhaling three drops of amyl-nitrite.—[*Chicago Medical Journal and Examiner.*

IODOFORM,

An excellent remedy for absorption of all infiltrations—for the breaking-up of adhesions—for the removal of glandular swellings. As an ointment, one drachm to the ounce of simple cerate, it is invaluable.

WHEN TO TIE THE CORD.

Dr. Budin, of Paris, made two series of experiments on this question, each comprising a number of observations. In one, he did not cut the cord until pulsation had ceased, and in the other, the section was made immediately after birth. In both, the blood escaping from the placental end of the cord was collected, and it was found that whilst in the first series, it amounted to twelve cubic centimetres, in the second, it was no less than one hundred cubic centimetres. Dr. Budin concludes, therefore, that it is best to wait until pulsation has ceased in the cord before it is ligatured and cut, because if the section be made sooner the fœtus is deprived of eighty-eight cubic centimetres of blood. Dr. Budin moreover states that the fœto-placental circulation is a completely closed one, and, therefore, in the normal condition of things no blood escapes from the placental tissues externally.

PLACENTAL-DELIVERY.

Dr. Gozzo says: "In some cases of placenta, from adhesions, hour-glass contraction, or want of contraction, I have succeeded very satisfactorily by tamponing the vagina well, and waiting; in the course of an hour or more the separation and extrusion of the placenta are announced by a sharp pain which causes the patient to cry out. The irritation of the tampon on the vagina and os is almost certain to provoke uterine contractions of the expulsive kind, as is well known. My experience leads me to say that it also effects dilatation of the os, and that it meets the indication for this purpose to a limited extent—[*Med. Reporter.*

TO DIMINISH UTERINE CONTRACTIONS.

The *Doctor* states that in cases where the contractions of the uterus are so strong as to prevent operative maneuvres, Dr. Frankel recommends the subcutaneous injection of hydrochlorate of morphia and sulphate of atropia, in combination, in doses of from one and a half to eight centigrammes of the former, and from one to eight milligrammes of the latter. Five minutes after the injection, inhalations of chloroform may be used with great benefit.

PRESCRIPTIONS IN THE METRIC-FORM.

A writer in the *Medical Record* says: "If physicians will simply remember that a *gramme* is about 15 grains, or the quarter of a drachm (Troy), and that 30 grammes weigh about an ounce (Troy), the thing is done. A few weeks' practice will enable them to *think* in the metric-system, and save the trouble of translating their ideas into it. Surely it is worth while to do this, and to get rid of our present system, in which we have, for instance, ounces of three different weights, viz.: 1 ounce (av.), 437.5 grains; fl. ounce, 455.56 grains; ounce (Troy), 480 grains.

"In writing a prescription by the metric-system, the quantity of each ingredient is expressed in multiples or fractions (decimal) of a common unit, which, of course, will be the gramme, thus:

R. Hydrarg. proto-iod..... 1 gramme.
Ext. lactucarii..... 3 grammes.
Ft. pil. No. lx. M.

Or,

R. Strychniæ-sulph.....
Acidi-arseniosi, aa..... 0.03 grammes.
Quinia-sulph..... 3 grammes.
Ext. gen. co..... q. s.
Ft. pil. xxx. M.

"I have adopted this plan myself, and would most seriously urge it upon the attention of those who have not traveled the bad old way so long that a new departure is impossible."

TRANSPARENT GUM.

A little glycerine, added to gum or glue, is a great improvement, as it prevents the gum or glue becoming brittle. It also prevents gummed-labels from having a tendency to curl up when being written on.

THE carbonic-acid in soda-water and aerated-bread is prepared by pouring sulphuric-acid upon marble-dust. To people whose nervous system is developed at the expense of their physical, the use of such an agent is highly deleterious.

NITRATE OF AMYL.

Dr. Squibb says the practice of administering the nitrate of amyl is drifting into the inhalation of small quantities from a small vial, the mouth of which is applied to one nostril; one to three full inspirations being sufficient. This small vial may be carried by asthmatics and others in the vest-pocket; should be tightly corked; corks are rapidly rendered friable by the nitrate. This method is convenient and economical.

Dr. Squibb has information that the nitrate is being largely employed in the asylums of this country for the treatment of the epileptic insane. Dr. Kempster says that his epileptic wards have been revolutionized; they are less noisy, the seizures becoming comparatively rare, by reason of the power of the drug to anticipate and prevent them, where the aura is distinct, or to arrest them where there is no appreciable aura. The nurses are instructed in its use. As an explanation of the alleged curative effect of the remedy, Dr. Squibb suggested that it may cure by breaking up the epileptic habit, as appears in the case of other affections showing a periodic tendency.

POISONOUS PICKLES.

Not very long since a very eminent lecturer on chemistry presented a bottle of pickles, which had been purchased for the use of his family, and which he proved to contain a considerable proportion of copper. The test used in this case was a steel-knife, which was immersed in the bottle for about an hour, and on its removal, was found to be completely coated with copper. Here is a test which any one may readily apply for himself, and the use of which it may be well occasionally to employ.

CEPHALALGIA.

D. Litgow states that he has been in the habit, since 1869, of using nitrite of amyl in nervous headaches, as recommended by Sir J. V. Simpson; and where due care was taken in the selection of cases, he never knew it to fail to produce entire and almost immediate relief.—[*Lancet.*

BELLADONNA IN OPIUM-POISONING.

The *Medical and Surgical Reporter* publishes the following case, furnished by Dr. L. R. Chase: A patient, having swallowed an excessive dose of morphia, when first seen by the doctor, was in violent convulsions, the pupils contracted to little more than a pin's point; the breathing peculiar to the last stage of opium-poisoning. He was pulseless; the surface cold, and the jaws closed, as in the rigor of death.

No reasonable hope of success presented. He had eaten nothing since early morning; hence, his stomach neither indicated tubes, nor could it be reached by diluents.

Active friction was at once instituted, cold applied to the head, and belladonna administered as freely as the set jaws would permit We were able to force into the system, by absorption, a number of drachms of a strong tincture, and, after a time, to introduce some into the stomach by deglutition.

In about thirty minutes, the pulse became perceptible at the wrist; the body began to grow warm, and the pupils to dilate. In an hour, the convulsions ceased, and he could swallow unaided. In two hours, consciousness was so far restored that he could speak, and the danger was passed.

I hardly dare give the quantity of belladonna administered. It was almost incredible. The desperation of the case rendered any means justifiable; hence, the result was the only thing considered. The patient fully recovered, although greatly debilitated for many days.

The preparation given was from the following formula:

R. Ext. belladonn. alc..... .....10 drachms.
Proof spirit..... 1 pint.

M. Mac. fourteen days and filter.

MEMBRANOUS-CROUP.

In an article in the New York *Medical Record*, Dr. Vail states that, in his experience, membranous-croup is as amenable to treatment as remittent-fever. He first gives from 15 to 30 grains of calomel, and repeats it in six hours if the bowels do not move. He also keeps the air of the room *loaded* with moisture, and heated to a temperature of 90 degrees F., constantly.

ARREST OF CONVULSIONS BY THE SINISTRO-LATERAL POSTURE.

In *The Practitioner*, of April, Dr. Fred. James Brown reports that he has seen two cases of convulsions arrested almost instantly by turning the patient over upon the left side. He says: "I adopted this procedure from experience of the good effects of this posture, both during chloroform inhalation, and subsequently in the stage of recovery from the anæsthetic. The profession owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Bader, for first pointing out the advantages of this posture when danger threatens a patient under chloroform inhalation.

"A few months since, a man, suffering from Bright's disease, was seized with uræmic convulsions in my presence. I turned him upon his left side and the convulsions ceased instantly.

"Recently, a man, aged 56 years, in impaired health from chronic-catarrh, was seized with unilateral (right) convulsions. His consciousness and power of speech were intact. He had been convulsed for ten minutes when I entered the house, and he was growing worse. I turned him over upon his left side, and the convulsions ceased in about ten or fifteen seconds. He had experienced a similar seizure on December 9, 1875.

"I hasten to report these cases, for I am certain that marvelous results will be obtained in convulsive diseases (possibly even in epilepsy) by sinistro-lateral posture. I conjecture that this form of posture acts beneficially by favoring the action of the heart, but I leave this question to physiologists."

HINTS AND RECIPES.

To keep cut-flowers fresh, to a vase of flowers put half a teaspoonful of soda in the water.

To preserve ice in a refrigerator, wrap in several thicknesses of newspaper.

To take rust from steel, cover the steel with sweet-oil, well-rubbed in. In forty-eight hours, rub it with finely-powdered unslacked lime, until the rust disappears.

To clean straw-matting, put a pint of salt in a pail of warm-water, and give the matting a thorough washing.

FOOD FOR LEAN WOMEN.

If any one wishes to grow fleshy, a pint of milk taken before retiring at night will cover the scrawniest bones. Although now-a-days we see a great many fleshy females, yet there are many lean and lank ones who sigh for the fashionable measure of plumpness, and who would be vastly improved in health and appearance could their figure be rounded with good solid flesh. Nothing is more coveted by thin women than a full figure, and nothing else will so arouse the ire and provoke the scandal of one of the "clipper-builds" as the consciousness of plumpness in a rival. In cases of fever and summer-complaint, milk is now given with excellent results. The idea that milk is feverish has exploded, and it is now the physician's great reliance in bringing through typhoid patients, or those in too low a state to be nourished by solid food. It is a great mistake to scrimp the milk-pitcher.

MAGNETIC BALM.

Oil of amber	8 ounces.
Powd. gum-camphor	8 "
White Castile-soap (shaved fine)	2 "
Beef's-gall	2 "
Tincture of cayenne	4 "
Oil of origanum	2 "
Ammonia, 3 F	12 "
Alcohol	5 quarts.

Mix and shake occasionally for 12 hours, and it is fit for use. This will be found a strong and valuable compound for external application.

ETHER FOR PERTUSSIS.

Dr. Powell, of New York City (*Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases*), communicates the results of complete anæsthesia by sulphuric ether for the relief of whooping-cough. He gives the particulars of five cases where complete anæsthesia was kept up for from fifteen to fifty minutes, repeated once or twice, with complete success in every instance. The longer the period the effect was kept up, the fewer the number of times anæsthesia had to be repeated.

SPLENITIS.

BY E. J. HOWARD, M. D.

While we live in a malarial country, and practice medicine where intermittent-fever prevails, we cannot be indifferent to a very common sequel. During the autumnal months, not a day passes that some one does not remind the physician of an "ague-cake in his left side."

The discussion of this subject, anatomically and physiologically, would embrace the exact office of the spleen, which does not seem to be fully understood by our best authors. It is asserted, by good authority, I believe, that the spleen acts as a diverticulum of the blood when the liver is congested, and also aids in preparing the blood for the portal circulation; and from all we can learn from books, the exact how of the spleen's preparation of blood for portal circulation is not decided. The spleen is engorged with blood during hepatic congestion, as is readily observed; and the engorged spleen sometimes becomes normal in size, as the paroxysms of fever passes off.

When this viscus becomes enlarged from the effects of some external violence, or the suppression of some habitual discharge, as happens some times, the true pathological condition is different from an enlargement produced by malaria. The former produces an inflammatory condition, while in the latter the endangium of the blood-vessels is poisoned by malaria. It does not seem necessary to keep these things before the mind as the treatment, if the treatment is to be scientific; or, are we, as physicians, to give the subject so little attention that some quack, novice, or old woman, can surpass us? Having given the subject considerable thought, and having employed many remedies for hypertrophied spleen, which is the sequel of repeated intermittents, it is my object in this short paper to point out the most successful treatment in my hands. In recent cases of splenitis, caused by violence or suppression of habitual discharge, I allayed the inflammation, constitutionally and locally.

As these observations are intended to more fully develop the splenitis caused by malaria and its treatment, I will pass many things which incidentally suggest themselves. The spleen is known to be a viscus of few nerves, little sensibility, large blood-vessels, the diverticulm of the blood in hepatic congestion makes

it a suitable organ for the retention of this malarial poison. No one enjoys a perfect immunity from intermittent-fever while this ague-cake continues. If the malaria does not find its nidus in the spleen, where then? In the removal of this enlarged condition of malarial production, it is best to premise quinine and capsicum, and continue them daily until all paroxysms subside. Continue the quinine and capsicum weekly, in sufficient quantities to prevent any return of chills. At the same time, make a liniment composed of four eggs, common salt, four ounces; triturate the eggs and salt thoroughly, and add one ounce of oil-turpentine. Apply this liniment every night over the region of the spleen until that organ becomes soft, which will be the case in about ten nights, if recent; if of long-standing, it will take a month. This liniment has not failed in my hands but a few times for the last ten years.—[*Cincinnati Lancet.*

SIMPLE-ELIXIR.

By this process, the clarifying of the elixir is rendered easy, while the resulting preparation is substantially the same as the one in general use.

Alcohol, 95 deg	8	fluid ounces.
Cinnamon-water, U. S. P	8	" "
Water	8	" "
Simple-syrup	8	" "
Tincture of orange-peel	1	" ounce.

Add first the tincture to the alcohol, then the cinnamon-water and the common-water, and lastly, the syrup. Simple filtering through paper gives a clear, transparent elixir. The tincture of orange-peel is made as follows:

Fresh orange-peel	No. 1.
Alcohol	4 fluid-ounces.

Rub the peel, with the alcohol, to a pulp; let it macerate twenty-four hours, with frequent agitation, and filter. The officinal tincture of orange-peel may be substituted, the only difference being that the elixir is made a little darker. To make red elixir, color it with tincture of cochineal or caramel. If it is found desirable, any of the essences of the pharmacopœia may be added to this elixir after it is filtered, in the proportion of fifteen minims to the ounce, without causing turbidity.

VACCINATION.

Dr. Walton, Cincinnati *Clinic*, thus sums up at the close of an article on "Animal *vs.* Human-Virus." In conclusion, I would summarize as follows:

1. It is certain that humanized-virus procures immunity from small-pox for a number of years.	1. It is certain that bovine-virus procures immunity from small-pox for a number of years.
2. It is certain that humanized-virus may convey syphilis.	2. It is certain that bovine-virus cannot convey syphilis.
3. It is possible that humanized-virus may convey other diseases.	3. It is not probable that bovine-virus conveys any disease.
4. It is probable that humanized virus degenerates.	4. It is not probable that bovine-virus degenerates.
5. It is certain that many persons oppose humanized-vaccination.	5. It is certain that very few persons will oppose bovine-vaccination.
6. It would not be right to compel vaccination with humanized virus.	6. It would be right to compel vaccination with bovine-virus.

NATURAL INK.

In Algeria, there is a river of genuine ink. It is formed by the union of two streams, one coming from a region of ferruginous-soil, the other draining a peat-swamp. The water of the former is strongly impregnated with iron, that of the latter with tannic-acid. When the two waters mingle, the acid of the one unites with the iron of the other, forming a true ink.

TO OPEN AN ABSCESS WITHOUT PAIN.

Dr. Bergonzini reports, in the *Revista Clin. de Bologna*, that if the following solution be applied to the skin over an abscess, for three to five minutes, an incision may be made into it without pain:

Carbolic-acid	2 parts.
Glycerine	1 part.

INTERNAL USE OF SALICYLIC-ACID, PARTICULARLY IN ACUTE ARTICULAR-RHEUMATISM.

Dr. L. Riess (*Berlin Klin. Woch*), after trying salicylic-acid in twenty-seven cases of acute articular-rheumatism, concludes that this remedy is a decided anti-pyretic, causing improvement in the joint-trouble by lowering the temperature, and, on the whole, decidedly shortening the course of the disease. The occasional unfortunate results which have followed the internal use of salicylic-acid have led Dr. Riess to make use of the salicylate of soda, which, he says, experiment has shown to be as efficient as the acid itself. He uses this remedy in doses of 1½ drachm, and preferably, according to the following formula:

R. Sodii salicyl..... 1½ drachm.
Aq. destillat..... 5 drachms.
M. Syr. sarsp. comp..... 1⅛ drachm.

This mixture is well borne, and is rarely followed by vomiting. The salt may be made extemporaneously from the acid by a good apothecary.

NEW ORLEANS MEAD.

The following formula, given by Prof. E. S. Wayne, at the Pharmaceutical Meeting of the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy, is kindly communicated by Mr. Louis Schwab, the Corresponding Secretary:

Sarsaparilla-root, contused.....8 ounces.
Licorice-root, " .....8 ounces.
Cassia-bark, " .....8 ounces.
Cloves, " .....2 ounces.
Coriander-seed, " .....3 ounces.
Ginger " .....8 ounces.

Boil for fifteen minutes in eight gallons of water; let it stand until cold, or for several hours, to settle down. Then strain through flannel, and add to it, in the fountain:

Syrup.....12 pints.
Honey.....4 pints.
Tincture of ginger.....4 ounces.
Solution of citric-acid.....4 ounces.

Add enough water to complete ten gallons, and charge with gas.

CARBOLIC-ACID spray in throat affections is highly recommended by James Cuthill, M. D., in the *British Medical Journal.* The writer says that for more than twelve months he has treated all his cases of diphtheria, and of ulceration of the tonsils and fauces, by means of carbolic-acid spray, except that in some of the more severe instances, the solid nitrate of silver has also been applied. Excellent effects have likewise been attained in relaxation of the uvula and other non-ulcerative conditions, as well as in scarlatinal sore-throats. Among the beneficial effects of this method of treatment are the removal of the sickening fœtor of the breath, and the speedy restoration of the power of deglutition. The strength of the solution may be from one in forty to one in twenty. No spatula is required, the stream of spray being merely directed over the dorsum of the tongue.

INSTANTANEOUS RELIEF FROM PALPITATION.

A French writer says that palpitation of the heart, from functional causes, and not attended with important organic lesion of the organ, may be instantaneously relieved by bending the body with the head down, and hanging the arms, so as to produce momentary congestion in the upper portion of the body.—[*Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal.*

ATONY OF THE BOWELS.

The following prescription has been found very serviceable in case of torpor of the bowels:

R. Ext. secal, cornut.....8 drachms.
Acid phosp. dil.....2 ounces.

Sig. A teaspoonful, three times a day.

STRANGURY.

Liquor-potassa is a very efficient remedy in strangury from blistering with cantharides, in doses of thirty drops every hour.

HINTS TO NURSES.

Never whisper in the sick-room to any one but the patient.

Remember that sick people are not necessarily idiotic or imbecile, and that it is not always wise to try to persuade them that their sufferings are imaginary. They may even at times know what they need.

Never have needless conversations with the doctor outside the sick-room. Nothing will excite and irritate a nervous patient sooner. If there is any need of private conversation with the doctor, never tell the patient that the doctor said "nothing." You will not be believed; the patient will be sure to lose confidence in you, and put the worst possible construction upon all such conduct and conversation.

Never deceive a dying person. It is not only wrong to allow any soul to go into eternity without preparation, but how can you tell but that something of the utmost importance ought to be communicated or executed, ere the opportunity is forever lost?

In lifting the sick, do not take them by the shoulders, and drag them up on the pillows, but get some one to help you. Let one stand on one side of the patient, the other, opposite; then join hands under the shoulders and hips, and lift them steadily and promptly together. This method is easy for those who lift, and does not disturb the one who is lifted.

Do not imagine that your duty is over when you have nursed your patient through his illness, and he is about the house or perhaps going out again. Strength does not come back again in a moment; and the day when little things worry and little effort exhausts—when the cares of business begin to press, but the feeble brain and hand refuse to think and execute—are the most trying to the sick one, and then comes the need for your tenderest care, your most unobtrusive watchfulness.

When you are sitting up at night with a patient, be sure to have something to eat, if you wish to save yourself unnecessary exhaustion.

To REVIVE withered flowers, take them from the vase, throw out the cold water, and replace it with hot water, in which you can barely hold your finger; put in the flowers immediately. The effect is wonderful.

SPECIFIC AGAINST HYDROPHOBIA.

Dr. Grzyvala, of Krivoe Ozero, Podolia, for whose trustworthiness Professor Gubler, of Paris, vouches, declares that, after a series of crucial trials, which he describes at length, he has found that, after having had opportunities of treating at least one hundred cases of men bitten by rabid dogs, with the *xanthium spinosum*, he has never in any one of these cases failed to ward off hydrophobia. He gives some startling examples. During the Crimean war, a family of twelve persons had been bitten by a hydrophobic wolf. Six of them entered his wards in the hospital of Olschanka, government of Podolia, district of Balta. They were treated with infusion of the leaves of xanthium, and all recovered. The six others, who were treated by the actual cautery, and the daily use of genesta-tinctoria and other drugs, died with hydrophobia in the course of twelve to sixty days. He recounts many other facts not less striking. For an adult, the dose is sixty centigrammes of the dry powder, repeated three times a day, and continued during six weeks. Children under twelve take half that quantity. The dose for animals is much larger. A herd of thirty oxen had been bitten by a mad wolf; eight had succumbed with symptoms of hydrophobia. The Commissary of Police came to Dr. Grzyvala for his "antirabic-powder." He gave three ounces of the powder, with bran, daily, to each of the remaining animals; none of them suffered from the disease. These are examples of which Dr. Grzyvala says he has a hundred others.—[*Br. Medical Journal.*

PHOSPHORIC-ACID.

Phosphoric-acid dilute, in doses of thirty to sixty drops, in water, and repeated from two to four times daily, is a most valuable remedy in the vomitings of pregnancy, and will be found very agreeable.

THE *Pharmacist* quotes from the *Journal de Pharmacie* a statement, that if a solution of 30 grains of sulphate of aluminium in 2-3 of an ounce of water be added to 8 1-5 fluid-ounces of a strong solution of gum-arabic, a mucilage is formed capable of being used as a cement for wood, porcelain, glass, etc.

EXTRACTING FOREIGN BODIES FROM THE NASAL-CAVITY.

EDITOR BRIEF: In the BRIEF of this month, page 133, is an article, entitled "An Easy and Painless Mode of Extracting Foreign Bodies From the Nasal-Cavity," all of which is good, provided the nasal-douche is at hand. Allow me to add a douche of air instead of water, which is always at hand, and, I think, equally effectual, and "not mentioned in the books," as far as I know.

Apply a handkerchief between the face and that of patient; press the free nostril firmly with the finger or thumb. Apply the mouth over the patient's mouth, and make a sudden and a forcible expiration. The use of the handkerchief will be apparent from the amount of nasal-mucous on it, which otherwise would have been on the face.

In a practice of more than thirty years, I have found this mode satisfactory, if the foreign body fills the nostril; but if a coin or other irregular-shaped substance, it will fail, yet such are readily seized with the forceps.

I am indebted to the eminent Dr. Twitchell, of Keene, N. H., for the suggestion, who induced a ruffle-shirted dandy to perform the operation for him once, *without the handkerchief*. The shirt had to go to the laundry, and the Doctor—out of the house.

Truly, A. BIGLLOW.

TOLEDO, O., May 19, 1876.

SCARLATINA.

Dr. Mayer says: "I am about to introduce to your notice, gentlemen, a remedy in which I have great confidence. If employed in the commencement, it will, I think, in most instances, so modify the disease that there will be few, if any, secondary symptoms It will in many instances arrest what would have been a severe case of the disease, and render it mild and easily managed. I was led to employ it because of the happy effect produced when I had used it in diphtheria, and because of the resemblance of the two diseases.

"There is some analogy between the inflammation of the cuticle in erysipelas and that in scarlet-fever, as, also, the pathological effects of the two diseases upon local organs and

tissues. Erysipelas inflammation often follows scarlet-fever; both diseases require the eruption to be brought out and retained upon the surface, and both also require the vital forces to be sustained by nutritious diet and tonic-treatment.

"Iron possesses specific virtue in erysipelas, and is applicable in a wide range of asthenic diseases. The benefit to be derived from this treatment is more decidedly manifested in those of children of a strumous diathesis, as, also, in all debilitated subjects. The following is the formula:

R. Tinct. ferri-chloride..... 1½ drachm.
Quinia sulph..... 8 grains.
Syrup simp..... 2 ounces.

M. S. For a child, four years old, one teaspoonful every two hours in a little water; in the interval of each dose give one teaspoonful of the following mixture:

R. Potassæ-chloratis..... 2 drachms.
Aqua-bullient..... 4 ounces.

"The formula should be modified according to circumstances; some cases require less iron, others more; some less quinia, others more, and in some cases sweet spirits of nitre is a good addition. The tincture of iron diluted, in passing over the mucous-membrane of the mouth and tonsils, acts as an astringent, preventing engorgement of the capillary blood-vessels of the parts.

"Its introduction into the stomach, together with quinia, furnishes the blood and nervous system with an efficient tonic, thereby enabling the recuperative powers to withstand the influence of the poison, and the excretory organs to expel it from the system.

"The chlorate of potassa assists by preventing an ulcerated condition of the mucous-membrane of the mouth, and it also in a degree furnishes oxygen to the blood."—[*Cincinnati Lancet.*

VACCINATION WITH PRIMARY-LYMPH.

In the Foundling Hospital, St. Petersburg, where most of the public vaccination is carried on, calf-lymph has been used side by side with human-lymph, for the last five or six years. It is equally protective, and failures in primary operations have, by care and perseverance, been reduced as low as two per cent.

TREATMENT OF DIABETES-MELLITUS BY GLYCERINE.

Dr. Julius Jacobs (*Virchow's Archiv.*) alludes to the futility of all previously lauded means of treatment in this affection, and gives notes of two cases treated by Shultz' method. Shultz maintained that diabetics lose, by excessive execretions of sugar, enormous quantities of respiratory material, and are obliged to give up their fat and protein for this purpose. If glycerine, which is not changed into sugar in the organism, but is transformed directly into carbonic-acid and water, be administered, this waste is compensated, or rather vicariously prevented, by the glycerine. Jacobs made use of the following formula:

Glycerine	6	drachms.
Pulv. acid, tartaric	4	scruples.
Aq. destillat	10½	ounces.

M. To be taken in twenty-four hours.

Although Jacobs did not obtain very brilliant results from this treatment, yet the patient's improvement was sufficient to encourage further use of the remedy. The usual food was taken.

TREATMENT OF WOUNDS.

Dr. Mackenzie, in the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, states that he treats wounds with much success with warm water and a balsamic compound. The warm water not only hastens the exit of disintegrated material, but conveys to the sufferer that soothing effect which heat alone communicates. The formula which he uses is the following:

Balsam fir True Venice turpentine Oil of sweet-almonds	of each 2 ounces.

Add carbolic-acid, half-drachm, previously dissolved in 2 ounces of warm glycerine. Mix.

Apply with a flat camel's hair-brush, and inject into the interstices of the wound with a glass-syringe, having previously cleansed the wound with very warm water and a bulb-syringe. Warm water is applied *ad libitum*, and the diseased or injured portion enveloped in flannel-cloths, immersed in water as hot as can be borne comfortably.

SULPHATE-CINCHONIDIA.

MEDICAL BRIEF, ST. LOUIS, MO.: I send you a report of three obstinate cases of intermittent fever, treated with sulphate of cinchonidia:

CASE No. 1—Mrs. Mary McKeehan, æt. 30; called April 20th. Nine months ago, she had been attacked with chills; quinine had been given and the chills stopped, but had soon returned; had frequently been checked by the use of quinine, but had finally settled into the *quartan* form, and since that time had resisted all the usual remedies; her head had been kept roaring and dizzy for ten days with quinine, with no abatement or variation of the chills. Gave her sulphate of cinchonidia, 16 grains each day for six days. The day she began the medicine was her day to have the chill, but she had none, and has had no symptoms of chill since. Gave her, also, brom. potassium, ½ drachm daily for fifteen days, for enlarged spleen. Discharged May 5th, quite well.

CASE No. 2—Chas. McKeehan, æt. 5; called April 20th; had been attacked with chills one year ago, *quotidian* form, but had gone through the *tertian-quartan* and double-quartan forms; had been given quinine, arsenic, strychnine, salacine, and the whole catalogue of remedies, with varying success. For several weeks, the usual remedies had made no impression on his disease, and regularly, at 2 P. M., he had his chill each third day. He was odemic; his spleen very much enlarged and tender. Gave him sulph. cinchonidia, 9 grains, daily for six days; also, bromide of potassium, 14 grains, daily for two weeks. He has had no chills since he commenced the treatment. Discharged May 5th, cured. The parties both lived, until about three months ago, in a malarial district, on the Trinity river, in Texas.

CASE No. 3—James Lingo, æt. 7; called April 24th. This patient had been chilling nine months; for the last six months had quartan and double-quartan. Quinine, arsenic, and the usual remedies had signally failed, and had, for the last few weeks, seemed to have no control whatever over the paroxysms. Gave him sulph. cinchonidia, 10 grains, daily for six days; also, bromide of potassium, 18 grains, daily for two weeks. Has had no chills, or symptoms of any, since.

E. B. HAMMACK, M. D.,
Sipe Springs, Texas.

CHOLERA-MORBUS.

Dr. Burrows says: In attacks of ordinary cholera-morbus, the best remedy that I have found is composed of equal parts of the tinctures of rhei, capsicum, camphor, opium and spearmint, of which thirty drops in a little water are to be taken every hour until the disease is checked. In cholera-infantum, I have had better success with the following than with any remedy I have used: Syr. rhei, 2 ounces; aqua calces, 4 drachms; and aqua menth. pip., 2 drachms. Of this, give to a child a year old a teaspoonful every hour until it operates. The object is to change the character of the discharges. If they are devoid of bile, give ten drops of the fluid ext. leptandria, in a little syrup, every two or three hours, until they change odor. Did I know who the originator of the above formula was, I would cheerfully give him credit; but as I do not, I can only bear testimony to its excellence, by actual experience in its use.

CHOLEATE OF SODA TO PREVENT THE FORMATION OF GALL-STONES.

Dr. William C. Dabney relates the particulars of two cases of gall-stone colic, and a third case of undefined biliary trouble, which were effectually relieved by the use of chlorate of soda. He gives it, as advised by Schiff, of Florence, in pill form, on account of its insolubility and slightly bitter taste. It should be given in doses of about fifty centigrammes (7½ grains), twice a day, until symptoms of the saturation of the system appear. There are digestive troubles, irregularity of the heart's action, etc. In one case, it *seemed* to cause nausea at first, but this soon passed off. Dr. Dabney thinks it highly probable that its use might be beneficial in some cases of enfeebled digestion, when the bile seemed at fault.

ASTHMA.

R. Iodide potass., one drachm; wine-ipecac, two drachms; spts. ether comp., one drachm; syrup, one drachm; water, five ounces; mix. sig. Teaspoonful every two hours during the paroxysm.—[*Southern Med. Journal.*

DIPHTHERIA SUCCESSFULLY TREATED.

BY E. CHENERY, M. D.

Everything looking towards a successful management of this so frequently-fatal disease ought to be made known. This is my apology for this article, which is based on one hundred and fifty-eight cases under my care. Most of them were treated in Maine, from 1862 to 1866, and the remainder in and about Boston, since that time.

I will not waste space on theories, but simply say:

First: The disease is both epidemic and contagious; and, so far as the latter manner of spreading is concerned, isolation should be practiced whenever possible.

Second: The disease is to be regarded not as a simply local affection, but a constitutional state, having its local expression in the throat, just as typhoid-fever is a general disease, having its local expression in the glandular structures of the small intestines, or scarlet-fever upon the skin and mucous-membrane. Hence, the rational indications are to deal with diphtheria as a constitutional affection rather than as a local one. And,

Third: Granting, what is generally admitted, that this constitutional state depends upon some blood-poison, developed through zymotic change, the treatment, to be rational, must look to a suppression of this fermentation.

The all-important question, then, is: Have we any means that will do it? and the object of this paper is to show that we have. I have had diphtheria myself, and so has my family, and I have treated quite a number of cases by the free use, in milk, of a tincture I have named the compound tincture of myrrh (made by digesting an ounce each of capsicum, powdered-myrrh, and powdered-guaiacum, in a pint of alcohol), employing, at the same time, quinine and the tincture of iron freely, and fomenting the neck with bags of baked potatoes; but I at length came upon a case which forbade hopes from such a treatment alone. This patient was an only child, a girl of six, weakly, thin, pale, scrofulous, with tonsils well-nigh meeting across the throat. Patches had formed over these, and the child was delirious.

Prof. Polli, of Italy, had broached the subject of the anti-zymotic powers of sulphurous-acid diffused in the system. I

was pleased with his statements, and felt that my time had come to make a departure in my case. I sought for the *bi-sulphite* of soda, and, failing to get it, procured the *hypo-sulphite*, mixed it with syrup, and gave it to my patient in frequent doses, continuing, as best I could, my other remedies. Now, whatever be the value of the theory as to the action of such an agent, what interested me most was the fact that I saved my patient.

[The other cases omitted.—Ed.]

Judging in this disease as I judge in others, I am fully persuaded that the treament I have so long used, and which has not failed me yet, will save nearly every case of diphtheria it seasonably and vigorously employed, and there is no reason why it should not do as well in the hands of others as in my own.

The dose of the hypo-sulphite is from five to fifteen grains or more, in syrup, every two to four hours, according to age and circumstances. It can do no harm; but if too much is given, it will physic. As much as the patient can bear without physicing is a good rule in the severer cases. The tincture can be used in doses of five drops to a half-drachm, in milk. The amount for thorough stimulation is greater than can be taken in water. I usually give it in such doses as can be easily taken in milk, using the milk as food for small children. One fact, however, needs to be borne in mind, namely: the hypo-sulphite prevents the digestion of milk, and should not be given in less than an hour from it. They may be used alternately, however, without interference, in sufficiently frequent doses.—[*Medical and Surgical Journal.*

FOUL BREATH—OFFENSIVE EXPECTORATION.

R. Salicylic-acid ..... 5 grains.
Glycerine ..... 1 drachm.
Water ..... 1 ounce.

Mix.

To be taken three times a day. In some instances, it is preferable to use it as an atonizer. As a mouth-wash, wash and gargle:

R. Borax ..... 10 grains.
Salicylic-acid ..... 10 grains.
Glycerine ..... 1 drachm.
Water ..... 1 ounce.

Mix.

NITRITE OF AMYL VS. CHLOROFORM.

Mr. C. Bader, ophthalmic surgeon, Guy's Hospital, reports three cases, where, during operation, the dangerous and alarming effects of chloroform were instantly and effectually overcome by the inhalation of nitrite of amyl. I append the record of these cases because they are illustrative of the action of amyl, and because they are models of concise reporting:

CASE 1.—Given a mixture of alcohol, ether, and chloroform. Young man, hydro-cephalic, inherited syphilis; irridectomized on both eyes; suddenly became pale; deeply insensible, with pulse and respiration very defective. Lint, with a few (three) drops of the nitrite of amyl, was placed over nose and mouth. In two or three seconds a deep inspiration, followed by others; flushed face, quick pulse, and return of sensibility were observed.

CASE 2.—Given chloroform. A boy, pale, fat, blue lips and cheeks, became suddenly very faint (blue lips, blood turning black, breathing very imperfect). The same quick result, with vomiting, followed the inhalation of the nitrite of amyl (three drops).

CASE 3.—Given chloroform. A middle-aged woman; suddenly became blue in the face and stertorous (tongue falling back). Lint, with the nitrite of amyl, was placed over mouth and nose. In a few seconds the blueness and stertorous breathing gave way to good color, regular breathing, sickness and vomiting, though no food had been taken for several hours.—[*Lancet.*

BRONCHITIS OF CHILDREN.

R. Potassium-chlorate	1 drachm.
Ammonia-chloride or muriate.	1 drachm.
Aqua-bulliens	3 ounces.
Quinia-sulphas	20 grains.
Syr. senegar	1 ounce.

Mix. Teaspoonful every hour.—[*L. G. Doane, M. D.*

CHRONIC-DYSENTERY.

The most successful treatment is with pulv.-ipecac, three to five grains every three hours.—[*British Medical Journal.*

ESMARCH ON THE TREATMENT OF DEEP ATHEROMATOUS CYSTS OF THE NECK.

In a lecture in Berlin, before the German Society for Surgery, Prof. Esmarch described the following as his method of treating these cysts, considering it as much safer than extirpating them. He makes a puncture with a small hydrocele-trocar, and verifies the diagnosis by microscopic examination of the fluid withdrawn. He then proceeds to wash out the sac thoroughly by repeated injections of a one per cent. solution of carbolic-acid, until the water returns clear. Lugol's solution is now injected and retained for a few moments, until, by gentle rubbing, it is brought into contact with the whole internal surface of the cyst. The sac generally soon fills again, and becomes somewhat painful; but it soon shrinks, and the cure is complete after a variable period. The paper is accompanied by lithographs, explanatory of the cases which are given in illustration.

DIABETES.

M. Guyot Darmecy recommends "citrate of sodo," in daily doses of half a drachm to one drachm, as an excellent remedy in this disease. It has been shown by analysis, that sugar disappears from the urine when this salt is used with the food instead of common salt. It is also known, since the researches of Wœhler, that the alkaline salts of organic-acids, when given in doses too small to produce purgative effects, are absorbed, and their acid being burnt up in the respiratory process, are eliminated by the urine as carbonates. Hence "citrate of sodo" may, without interfering with the gastric-acid in the same way as alkaline-carbonates, place the system under the influence of an alkaline-carbonate, which is indispensable to the interstitial combustion of the glucose of the food.

SANATIVE-DENTRIFICE.

R. Salicylic-acid, sixteen grains; powd. orris-root and precipitated-chalk, two ounces; mix. This makes an agreeable and efficient dentrifice, especially valuable in offensive breath with disorder of the gums.

VARICOSE-ULCERS.

Dr Bourguignon recommends, in *L'Union Medicale*, the potassio-tartrate of iron as a useful application in varicose-ulcers of the leg. He finds ulcers with hard, well-defined, and unhealthy surfaces yield so readily to the application as to be cured in two or three months. According to the sensibility of the ulcer, a solution of from two to six parts of the tartrate is to be made in one hundred of water, a few drops of ammonia being added to prevent precipitation. Pledgets of charpie are then soaked in it, and applied to the ulcer night and morning, and covered with a thick layer of cerate. This, by means of tepid water, must be so removed as to leave none of the charpie adherent to the ulcer. After cicatrization has begun, the lotion needs only to be applied in the evening, simple cerate being applied in the morning. An opiated cerate may be alternated with the simple, if the application is painful at first.

BURNS, ULCERS, ETC.

The sudden relief of the pain of burns, which attends the application of a solution of half an ounce of the French chloride of soda, in a quart of water, is truly astonishing. It should be applied by means of cloth dipped into it and kept wet. If it fails to give relief, you may suspect the impurity of the soda, or that the solution is too strong. If its anti-phlogistic effect be desired, it must give no pain when applied. In cases tending to mortification, it may be best to apply sufficiently strong to produce slight smarting. When too strong, nothing is more irritating to a burn, new wound, or ulcer; but when the French chloride is used—half an ounce to a quart of water—there is nothing better as an application or wash to recent wounds of a lacerated character, or to chronic ulcers. It is especially valuable in children, preventing the excessive suppuration which is so often fatal in such cases.

Dr. Hale reports, in *A. M. Journal*, several cases of spermatorrhœa successfully treated with syrup hydrate of chloral.

SIMPLE CERATE AND OINTMENTS IN GENERAL.

BY HANS M. WILDER.

The *Pharmacopœia* (and all works on pharmacy) tells us, after having melted and strained (if necessary) the cerate, to "stir constantly until cool."

This method serves a good purpose for simple cerate, and may be used for nearly all ointments.

For some time past, I have been using a method recommended to me, years ago, by on old apothecary (and said to be employed by perfumers in making pomatum), which consists in letting the melted mass cool down undisturbed, and, when *perfectly cold*, with a pestle gradually work your way from the top (by rubbing) down and through the mass. The ointment treated in this way is softer, never gets hard on its surface, and, as asserted by physicians, is more quickly absorbed by the skin than when made by "constantly stirring until cool;" which injunction, by the way, seldom is complied with.

There will, of course, be raised one great objection to this method; with lots of more than a couple of pounds, it becomes rather a hard task to move the pestle round at last.—[*Jour. Phar.*

For cracked or ulcerated nipples of the breast, preceding or following pregnancy:

R. Tannin, pulverized..... 20 grains.
Glycerine..... 1 ounce.
Tincture-belladonna..... 1 drachm. M.

Apply externally after washing the nipple. (Doane.) Used in the Paris Hospital.

CHLORAL-HYDRATE AS A LOCAL APPLICATION TO ULCERS.

Mr. Lucas, of Guy's Hospital, gives the results of his trials of solutions of chloral-hydrate in the treatment of various kinds of ulcers, varying in strength from two to four grains in an ounce of water. The application is generally attended by considerable smarting, which becomes less after each successive application. Foul ulcers quickly become sweet, and all forms heal more promptly.

VARICOSE-ULCERS.

Dr Bourguignon recommends, in *L'U* ...ps into a ... the throat potassio-tartrate of iron as a useful ap... ulcers of the leg. He finds ulcers with ... n throughout unhealthy surfaces yield so readily to ... stiffness felt cured in two or three months. Acc... the ulcer, a solution of from two t... ...icerations of the to be made in one hundred of w... being added to prevent precipi... ...s generally afforded a then soaked in it, and applied ...om of the disease. and covered with a thick ... ...s gargle freely at the com- tepid water, must be so re... ...ll arrest the progress of the adherent to the ulcer. ...tion. needs only to be appli... ...; it is safe even if used for hours plied in the mornir... ...l additional advantage in removing the with the simple, if ...

FLATULENT-DYSPEPSIA.

The s... *In that form of* dyspepsia attended with rapid fermentation of applica... *and and evolution* of gas soon after a meal, no remedy gives so ride c... *prompt and satisfactory* relief as chloroform, in doses of fifteen be... *or twenty drops,* in one or two teaspoonfuls of glycerine or fa... *simple syrup.* The gases are expelled from the stomach in a ... *few minutes* after swallowing the dose, fermentation is arrested *promptly,* and very seldom, indeed, is any unpleasant effect experienced.—[*S. E. Willis, M. D.*

WHISKY IN PHTHISIS.

Dr. Flint, in his last work on phthisis, states that he has found *whisky,* in free quantity, combined with plenty of fresh air, in *some* cases yield remarkable results. He also repeats an important statement respecting alcohol, which he has elsewhere insisted upon, viz.: that "among the great number of cases of phthisis in which he has advised alcoholics to be taken as a therapeutical measure, he has never known a single instance of a patient becoming addicted to their use."

INJECTIONS IN GONORRHŒA.

" There is another form of injection which ...ng for the inflamed membrane. It con- ...spension, which, when injected, gives

... .	2	drachms.
....	4	drachms.
.....5½		ounces.

...uld never neglect; that is, to instruct your ...ne injection. Let him first empty his bladder, a chamber, retract his foreskin, and hold his ...s thumb on one side and his finger on the other, so ...e the meatus against the nozzle of the syringe, never ...ng above and below, for that spreads the meatus. Then ...t him inject about a fluid-drachm, slowly and deliberately. There is no danger of forcing the injection into the bladder, and no pains need be taken to prevent it. After the injection is in, let in be gently worked backward and forward along the urethra, to distribute it nicely, and retained for a few minutes. Then let it come away as much as will flow off readily.

" The nozzle of the syringe should not be longer than about three-eighths of an inch, because often the trouble is close to the orifice of the urethra, and a longer nozzle would prevent the injections coming well in contact with it.

" This application is best made in the morning, after the daily stool, again about noon, and again about 5 or 6 o'clock; not just before bedtime, as is sometimes recommended. The manipulations tend to increase the disposition to chordee, and should not be made just before going to bed. Three or four times in the twenty-four hours is often enough for its employment."

VARICOSE-VEINS.

A solution of perchloride of iron—one ounce of the perchloride to three of water. Take strips of lint, three double, wet with the solution, and apply over the enlarged vein, cover with oiled-silk, and secure by a bandage; renew the dressing daily. A cure, almost without exception, results in two weeks.

THE USE OF ERGOT IN UTERINE-POLYPI.

Speaking of the medical treatment of intra-uterine-polypi, Dr. A. Reeves Johnson remarks, in the Chicago *Medical Journal and Examiner:* "There is one medicine to the efficacy of which I desire to bear testimony—I allude to ergot. Its use is especially indicated in cases where growths of fibrous-character are passing from the condition of sub-mucous-tumor to that of polypus; and, also, in cases where polypi of any kind have come to press against, and do not quite pass through, the os-uteri. In these cases, the ergot, by inducing firm contraction of the uterine-walls, forces the growth downward; it becomes more quickly and decidedly pedunculated, and, consequently, more accessible to radical treatment. At the same time, it is the most efficient agent under these circumstances in checking the hemorrhage. Prof. Byford has informed me that it has been his custom for many years to rely chiefly upon this drug for the purposes mentionod."

BORACIC-ACID IN RING-WORM.

Surgeon-Major Watson reports, in the *Indian Medical Gazette*, that he has lately employed boracic-acid with very great success as an external application in the treatment of the vegetable parasitic diseases of the skin. An aqueous solution of boracic-acid of a drachm to the ounce, or as much as the water will take up at ordinary temperature, is allowed. The affected parts should be well bathed with the solution twice daily, some little friction being used, and it should not be wiped off, but allowed to dry on the part. The remedy is said to be simple, cheap and efficacious.

CHRONIC-DYSENTERY.

R. Ol. ricini, one-half drachm; tinct. opii, ten drops; mix. Sig. Three times a day. Chronic dysentery, such as obtains in consumption, or the ordinary forms of disease, is in most cases as satisfactorily treated by the above as with any of the new remedies.

EPISTAXIS.

EDITOR MEDICAL BRIEF—*Dear Sir:* I notice a great many remedies suggested for the arrest of epistaxis. I have found nothing more efficacious and convenient than a piece of fat bacon cut to fit the nostril, three or four inches long, and pushed in tight and far enough to reach the throat. In obstinate cases, I have rolled the bacon in Monsell's persulphas-ferri. (powder); the blood may pass down the throat for a short time, but it is soon corrected. It succeeded in a case of epistaxis, occurring in jaundice, that had resisted all the ordinary appliances; the effect was immediate. It is an old domestic remedy.

The best application I find for corns is acid-muriatic, applied to the corn every night for a week, and then soaking the feet in warm water; the corn then can be removed with the fingers. It also removes the soreness at once.

In cases of retained placenta following abortion and no urgent hemorrhage, I find 15 to 20 drops of tincture-gelseminum every three or four hours never fails in bringing away the secondaries in ten or twelve hours. My attention was first called to this fact by prescribing the gelseminum for a patient who had had a severe headache following an abortion, the placenta not having come away, and being unable to get it away without using a great deal of force. She being urgent for me to give her some thing for the headache, prescribed the above remedy; calling next morning, found headache relieved and placenta all come away, etc. In several other cases the effect was efficacious. I now rely upon it in all cases where there is no immediate hemorrhage. I think it acts by relaxing the sphincter of the uterus.

Yours, respectfully,

M. M. GRIFFITH, M. D.

PARSONS, Luzerne county, Pa., June 18, 1876.

SKIN-DISEASES.

To alleviate the intense itching and irritation which accompanies chronic-eczema and other forms of skin-disease, apply an ointment, containing half a drachm of sub-nitrate of bismuth to an ounce of simple-ointment, rubbed up with a little spirits of wine.

CATHETERIZATION OF THE EUSTACHIAN-TUBE.

In the *Medical News*, Dr. Coomes writes: "How many medical students are there that graduate in America who never hear a lecture upon the use of Eustachian-catheter? A little inquiry will tell the story. I am fully confident that there are hundreds of doctors in our midst who have not seen an Eustachian-catheter, and would in all probability fail to recognize the instrument if shown to them. They are not to blame, nor were their teachers, especially those who taught in former years; but at this advanced age, I think that every practicing physician should at least understand the uses of the instrument sufficiently well to enable him to know when it is demanded, that he may advise his patient accordingly, and save him from evil consequences that so many suffer.

"The difficulties in manipulating the Eustachian-catheter are not numerous. A thorough knowledge of the anatomy of the structures with which you have to deal is the most important thing. Possessing this, and bearing the fact in mind that no undue force is to be used, success will attend almost every effort. Its introduction, as compared with the introduction of the urethral-catheter, is one of the easiest and most simple operations in surgery, while the introduction of the urethral-catheter is considered among the difficult ones. As a means of relieving pain, I am satisfied that if every doctor understood the use of the Eustachian as well as the urethral-catheter, the results obtained from the former would equal those of the latter in every respect. Almost every case of otalgia may be relieved by the use of the Eustachian-catheter and air-bag.

"As a means of diagnosis the Eustachian-catheter is of incalculable value. In this respect its uses are equally important as the urethral or sound. In fact, it plays the same part in the treatment of many aural affections that the urethral-catheter and sound do in the treatment of many vesicular affections. With it, we can determine whether or not the Eustachian-tube is permeable; we can tell whether or not the tympanic-cavity contains a fluid; by its aid, we are enabled with great certainty to say whether or not the drum-membrane is in normal condition. Without it, the introduction of medicated liquors and vapors into the tympanum would be next to an impossibility; but with it and the air-bag and other suitable appliances, we are enabled to

cleanse the tympanic-cavity quite sufficiently for all purposes, and introduce solutions in the form of a spray which, entering the drum-cavity in any other shape, would be exceedingly painful and injurious, if not dangerous.

"I may say that this is the only way in which the middle-ear of the adult may be thoroughly cleansed; and, furthermore, it is the only means by which we can introduce a definite quantity of medicine into the drum-cavity with any certainty. In the treatment of all affections of the tympanum, in the adult characterized by a purulent or other discharge, the Eustachian-catheter is an indispensable instrument, if it is desirable to effect a cure.

"The introduction of simple or medicated-vapors into the tympanum would be impossible were it not for this instrument; and likewise the introduction of bougies into the Eustachian tube would be almost impossible and highly impracticable were it not for the catheter."

Dr. Richardson justly condemns excessive physical exertions. He does not underrate the advantages of physical exercise, but couples his condemnation with the statement that he can "scarcely overrate the dangers of those fierce competitive exercises which the world in general seems to applaud." The disciples of muscular Christianity have pushed the practical application of their doctrines to a dangerous extreme. Because a walk of four or five miles may be taken with advantage, it does not follow that one of twenty miles will do still more good. We recall, as we write, two cases of organic disease of the heart, which had their origin in the training and the occasional "spurting" of the Cambridge boating-crews. We recommend those who propose undertaking a course of physical training, such as rowing, wrestling, running, and the like, to Dr. Richardson's account of injuries from physical overwork.—[*Exchange.*

SPASMODIC-ASTHMA.

R. Tinct.-lobelia sem..... ½ ounce.
Syr. sang. canad..... ½ ounce.
Fl. ext. gelsemin..... 3 drachms.
Syr. simplex..... 4 ounces.

M. Sig. One teaspoonful every fifteen minutes until relieved.

STOVE-POLISH AS AN IRRITANT.

A correspondent suggests that a fertile source of catarrhal and bronchial irritation may be found in the use of stove-polish. This being of metallic substance and of a drying nature, is expelled by heat, and mingles with the air of the room, and in this state of minute division finds its way into the respiratory tract, adhering to the first moist substance it meets. Hence the pharynx and Schneiderian-membrane suffer rather than the lungs. He thinks follicular-pharyngitis is often maintained by these exhalations.

DIABETES.

R. Sulphide of calcium, one-eighth gr.; sugar of milk, three grains; mix. To be taken three times a day. A very marked decrease in the quantity of urine, and apparent cure, is reported in the *British Journal* by the above treatment, and that, too, without any change in diet.

A complete cure of this affection is reported in the *Bahia Medical Gazette*, by the use of phenic-acid, two and a half grains, in mint-water, night and morning.

CAMPHORATED-ETHER IN ERYSIPELAS.

According to Cavazzani, a preparation, consisting of camphor and tannin, of each one part, and ether eight parts, is an excellent application, even in cases of phlegmonous-erysipelas. It is also very efficacious in burns of the first and second degrees; the heat disappears rapidly, and blisters do not form. It should be applied every three hours.

RESTORATION OF FADED WRITING.

Moisten the paper a little with water, and brush over a solution of sulphydric-ammonia. Since most inks contain iron, it is easy to understand that there will be formed sulphide of iron, which is black.

DIPHTHERIA.

BY DR. EDWARD H. SHOLL.

Some five or more years since, my attention was called to an article on this subject in my weekly companion, the *Medical and Surgical Reporter*, of Philadelphia, by a physician of Philadelphia, whose name I do not now recall, directing attention to the use of the liquor-potassæ in the disease. He, having instituted a series of experiments to find the best and quickest solvent of the detached diphtheritic-membrane, soon ascertained this to be the liquor-potassæ. Reasoning properly, he began its internal use, and with such success as led him to publish the result of the treatment.

Not satisfied with any treatment pursued in my practice prior to that time, the resolution was made to test this. An opportunity was soon afforded in a case of adult-male, and of extreme severity. To be certain, four physicians were called to examine and diagnose the case. All agreed to its specific nature. For more than twenty-four hours the disease was treated with iron, chlorate of potash, ammonia, etc., the symptoms of debility, with local invasion of throat, rapidly increasing. All previous medication was suspended, and he was put upon the use of liquor-potassæ alone, in twenty-drop doses every three hours. In thirty-six hours every trace of the membraneous deposit was gone, and the fever was subsiding. The patient went on to speedy convalescence, and was soon able to leave my office, where I had kept him in order to conduct my experiment accurately. Since that time the remedy has been used with like result in every case of diphtheria coming under my care, giving in doses, suitable to age, every three hours. Usually, in the early stage, I alternate it with a four-ounce saturated solution of chlorate of potash, to which is added one fluid-drachm of hydro-chloric acid, and two of tincture of iron, of which a small teaspoonful, properly diluted, may be given to a child six years old, every three hours, allowing, thus, an hour and a half between the different medicines. When the membrane disappears, the iron-mixture is discontinued, and an emulsion cod-liver-oil and syrup of lacto-phosphate of lime used till strength is restored. The liquor-potassæ is continued as long as the membrane is present, and until fever entirely gives way. It may be said that the adjunct

treatment is important. This is conceded, or it would not be used; but eliminate the liquor-potassæ from the treatment, and results will soon show which is the controlling factor in the solution of the problem.

I have recently dismissed, convalescent, a case treated by this method, which, arguing from its announcement, it does not seem could have been led to a successful issue in any other way. I never use any local treatment, having abandoned it ten years since. It is not claimed for this remedy that it is specific—that were folly; but when the wails of weeping mothers are going over the land, it is well that the physician be supplied with every means of fighting this terrible scourge.

I pen this article because I have found that many of my professional brethren have never heard of this treatment, and because the aggregate of human experience has for its sum earthly wisdom.—[*Boston Journal of Chemistry.*

LIQUOR-AMMON. CAUSTICI AS A PROPHYLACTIC AGAINST THE BITE OF A MAD-DOG.

Dr. Stefano reports that three persons were bitten at the same time by the same mad-dog. One of them did not suspect any danger, took no precautionary measures, and after six months became hydrophobic and died. The other two came under treatment about one-half hour after the accident. The wounds were covered with lint, thoroughly soaked in liquor-ammon. caust., which was renewed as soon as it became dry. The wounds healed easily, and the patients remained well.

Stefano considers the remedy as a specific antidote to the poison of mad-dogs, and would therefore recommend sub-cutaneous injections of liquor-ammon. caust. in the vicinity of the bite.

WARTS, CORNS, AND RING-WORM.

Strong acetic-acid has the power of removing warts, especially when of a syphilitic nature, and corns, owing to its solvent power over the albumen composing them; also of great service as a lotion for ring-worm of the scalp.—[W. D. Griffith, M. D., in *Medical Press and Circular.*

HOUSE-CELLARS.

To assert that a large majority of bilious-diseases, fevers and kindred ailments—by which the inhabitants throughout the country are afflicted—have their origin in badly-ventilated cellars, over which houses are placed, doubtless would be received as chimerical. Nevertheless, the more the subject is investigated, the more convincing will be the conclusion that this is the fact.

How is the evil to be obviated? The remedy is a very simple one—namely, make no cellar under your dwelling; but, instead, raise a suitable foundation-wall, with good drainage underneath; excavate a few inches in depth of the surface-soil between the walls, and make a good cement or asphaltum-floor over the entire surface; then have a proper number of windows in the foundation-wall that can be opened or closed at will. Thus, with ample means for ventilation, and the moisture arising from the earth effectually cut off, the nuisance arising from foul-air and dust from beneath will be effectually abated.

PURIFICATION of the drinking-water and thorough disinfection and removal of sewerage. These two precautions can be, and have been, carried out perfectly, in certain cases, with the happiest results. Whole towns in Germany, which were formerly ravaged by cholera during former invasions, have been entirely free from the disease during late epidemics. This result, so striking as to be incontestable, was brought about by thorough and efficient drainage, and purification of the water-supply. Certain enthusiasts hope to see the day when some procedure similar to vaccination shall be discovered, which shall do for cholera what that has done for small-pox. We may, or may not, live to see such a dream realized; but the real protection for drainage and pure water is within reach, and it ought not to be long before the advantages of these precautions are everywhere realized.

SLEEPLESSNESS.

Oxide of zinc is a valuable remedy in sleeplessness or hallucination, or trembling, or any other form of the disordered nervous symptoms of persons suffering from chronic-alcoholism.

ERYSIPELAS, SMALL-POX, CARBUNCLE, BOILS, and all diseases of the skin, attended with the formation of pus, may be successfully treated with tinct. chloride of iron, ½ drachm every four hours. With such doses, what threatens to be a dangerous attack of traumatic-erysipelas is often cut short in forty-eight hours. The idiopathic variety will also yield promptly. In small-pox, it controls the inflammation and greatly modifies the process of maturing and the attending suppuration. In the treatment of carbuncle, the leading considerations are: to change the diffuse character of the inflammation; establish defined bounds, and promote moderate healthy suppuration; to enable the system to arrest and to throw off sloughing material. For the promotion of these objects, no remedy acts so promptly, when given internally, as the chloride of iron.

TREATMENT OE TAPE-WORM.

Dr. Averdick says: After ordering a dose of castor-oil, I have the patient to abstain from food for one day; then administer the following:

R. Pepo..... 6 ounces.
Ole resini filicis..... ½ fluid-drachm.
Aqua destill..... q. s. ad. 10 ounces.
Fiat emulsio.

Sig. Take half in the morning, the other half in the evening, followed by a large dose of castor-oil.

The pumpkin-seed should be pulverized, hull and all.

[For the Brief.]

TO RESTORE MENSTRUATION—A POWERFUL EMMENAGOGUE.

R. Tr. aloes, comp.....1 ounce.
Tr. ferri chlor.....1 ounce.
Tr. ergot (Squibb's).....1 ounce.
Ess. mentha-piperita.....1 drachm.
Syr. simplices ad.....4 ounces.

Mix et fiat mistura.

S. Teaspoonful every six hours.

Used in the Paris Hospital. DOANE.

GLYCERITE OF STARCH.

BY J. W. WOOD, PH. G.

I wish to bring to your notice, this evening, in possibly some new relations, that already somewhat well-known preparation, glycerite of starch.

Glycerite of starch is, no doubt, familiar to most, if not all of you behind the prescription-counter, in its character of an excipient for the troublesome quinine-pill; for this purpose, in my opinion, nothing better need be desired.

It possesses virtues and properties which ought to make it one of the most desirable requisites in a much wider sphere of entirely different applications.

As an emolient and topical application in certain conditioned sores, or superficial inflammations, it is found of excellent use.

For burned or scalded surfaces, it is of great value, as a simple dressing, or as a vehicle for the exhibition of those medicaments best presented to the surface by inunction. For this purpose it has been, to a limited extent, known, but has been given scarcely a proper trial to test its merits; it is, consequently, almost unknown in its therapeutic application. But to those who have given it a fair trial, there is no doubt as to its superiority over those greasy and disagreeable unguents and vehicles so universally in use, and the place of which it is in almost, if not all cases, better adapted to fill. It has the advantage, too, of not soiling the clothing and person, and is capable of easy removal by water. It also has those soothing and healing qualities intended to be possessed by the unguentum adipis of the pharmacopœia.

But it is its merit as a medium for the exhibition of medicaments, to be absorbed by the cutaneous tissues, that I wish especially to impress upon your minds, and it is in this relation that its greatest value is demonstrated.

That a medicinal substance, let it be an extract, salt, or any remedial agent whatever, may operate with its characteristic effects by absorption, a most minute state of division or condition of liquefaction must necessarily obtain, else, from the lack of these conditions, the desired results will not supervene.

Now, when glycerite of starch is used as the vehicle for the exhibition of these medicaments, it does not, as in most instances the case with its greasy prototype, simply suspend them,

ERYSIPELAS, SMALL-POX, C[illegible]mes, the medicaments are of the skin, attended w[illegible] for immediate absorption cessfully treated w[illegible] four hours. Wit[illegible] advantageous vehicle, it also attack of traum[illegible] properties to prevent or subdue hours. The i[illegible] to keep the skin moist and cool, small-pox, it[illegible] positive medicament. process of[illegible] claim of superiority is, while it never treatment[illegible] nor subject to change in any climate, the diffi[illegible] preservative in those ointments so prone bound[illegible] and chemical instability. the s[illegible] in all the officinal ointments—some requir- the[illegible] ing simple modifications, which I need not enter upon now— w[illegible] with perhaps but two exceptions—namely, the simple and compound iodine ointments, wherein the well-known reaction of free iodine with starch renders it inadmissible. I trust these few words will bring your attention more fully to this subject, which is well worthy of a more thorough investigation.—[*Am. Jour. Pharm.*

LACTATE OF SODIUM AS A SOPORIFIC.

Dr. Lothar Meyer (*Virchow's Archiv.*) has administered this drug as a substitute for morphia, both hypodermically and in an effervescing powder, prepared by mixing carbonate of sodium with lactic-acid. He finds that the lactate of sodium calms the nervous system of some of his patients, while, on the other hand, it interferes with digestion.

LIN. AMMON. IODID.

R. Iodin..... 3 drachms.
Ammon. iodid..... 2 drachms.

Rub in a glass mortar, and add:

Chloroform.....10 ounces.

When dissolved, add:

Ol. olei.....10 ounces.
Glycerine..... 5 ounces.

Mix well.

FELON.

.oney, alum, flour, aa., q. s., moisten with good vinegar, poultice twice a day.

R. Pulv. camphor, opium, brown sugar, Castile soap, aa, q. s.; wet to consistence of paste with spts.-turpentine. Apply on a rag twice a day.

Take common rock-salt, dry it in an oven, then pound it fine and mix with an equal quantity of spts.-turpentine; put it on a cloth, and wrap it around the part affected, and as it gets dry, put on more.

ERGOT A GALACTIFUGE.

Dr. Washburn says: Having seen a report of a physician that the ergot of corn had arrested the secretion of milk in cows that ate it, I concluded to try it the first favorable opportunity, which did not present itself until October, 1875.

Mrs. B., aged about 34 years, healthy and well-formed, was pregnant the eighth time. Of her seven previous confinements, only one of her children lived any length of time, and it but a few months only. Her nipples being imperforate, it was impossible to draw the milk from the breasts, and in consequence, she suffered because of from one to four mammary-abscesses in each breast after each confinement.

She was delivered of her eighth child October 30th, 1875, a male, well-formed and healthy. Her labor was natural, and the placenta and membranes were removed without difficulty. I immediately ordered—

R. Fluid ext. ergot (Squibb's)..... } Of each 1½ ounce.
Syr. simple..... }

Sig. Teaspoonful every four hours.

On the fourth day, her breasts were considerably swollen and painful to the touch. I ordered them to be rubbed with oil of peppermint three times daily, and hot fomentations to be kept applied. Thirty-six hours after, the swelling and pain had disappeared, and Mrs. B. made a good recovery, without an abscess or any further trouble.

December 15th, 1875, I delivered Mrs. O., primipara, after a very tedious labor, of a still-born child, at full-time. I gave her

the same prescription, she commencing to take it as soon as possible after her confinement. At this time, she was suffering from an intermittent-fever; and the seventh day after confinement, she had a slight attack of pelvic metro-peritonitis, which passed away speedily; and she made a good recovery, without any trouble with her breasts.

April 6th, 1876, I delivered Mrs. H., after a prolonged and difficult labor, of a still-born child, at full-time. I exhibited the same prescription. The fourth day her left breast became swollen, and by the aid of a breast-pump, there was drawn away, perhaps, half an ounce of milk. After the use of opium to ease the pain, and hot fomentations, she made a good recovery. I have prescribed it in a number of other cases, where the results were as satisfactory.

Dr. Leonard, of Detroit, has had a similar experience.—[*Med. and Surg. Reporter.*

ABDOMINAL SECTION IN INTUSSUSCEPTION.

Reported at the meeting of the Royal Medical and Surgical Society. The first case is reported by Mr. Howard Marsh. An infant, seven months old, was attacked with symptoms of dysenteric-diarrhœa sickness, griping abdominal pains, and too frequent action of the bowels. For a time relieved by medicines, the condition recurred on the third day, and was then accompanied with tenesmus and the passage of blood and slimy-mucus. On the thirteenth day, a decided change for the worse took place; the bowel was found projecting two inches beyond the anus, and the ileo-cæcal valve could be seen at the extremity of the protrusion, while in the abdomen a firm cylindrical-tumor was felt in the course of the descending colon. At the time of the operation the child was in a condition of collapse. The abdomen was opened to the extent of two inches in the middle line, just below the umbilicus. Great care was required to avoid injuring the intestine, which protruded into the wound. The intussusception could not be reduced until the bowel was drawn out through the incision, but then it was easily reduced. No bad symptoms followed, and the child was convalescent on the fourth day. The intestine appeared to have been invaginated for thirteen days, and inflammation had set in only fourteen

hours before the operation. Insufflation and distention of the bowel with lukewarm water had been tried previous to the operation. Mr. Marsh is of the opinion that if all other means fail, the operation should be performed: (1) in acute cases of not more than twelve or eighteen hours' duration; (2) in chronic cases in which there have been no symptoms of inflammation or strangulation of the intestine.

A second case was operated upon by Mr. Henry G. House. The patient, thirty-five years of age, had had symptoms for twenty-three days, at the end of which time a tumor was observed in the right iliac-fossa, but which afterwards moved over to the left iliac-fossa. Inflation of the intestine was tried on three occasions, without any success. A vertical incision was made opposite the umbilicus. The operator not being able to reduce the intussusception in situ, the bowel was drawn out of the wound, and reduction was effected with difficulty by a kneading movement and pressure upon the distal end. Anti-septic treatment was used, and the patient recovered without a bad symptom. There was no hemorrhage from the bowels in this case, hitherto considered a cardinal symptom of the disease.

THE BEST OIL FOR THE HAIR.

R. Glycerine.....3 ounces.
Bay-rum.....2 ounces.
Tinct. cantharidis.....1 drachm. M.

TREATMENT OF SEVERE SPRAINS.

On this topic, Mr. S. Gamee says, in the *Lancet*, not only can the patient bear well-applied pressure from the first, however great the swelling and acute the pain, but it may be laid down as a general proposition, to which I have never seen an exception, that, in severe sprains, effusion is most surely checked, and once it has occurred in absorption, is most rapidly promoted, while pain is most effectually relieved by pressure and immobilization. It is as true now as when Velpeau taught it, that "compression is the sovereign resolvent in contusions with filtration and swelling."

By way of illustration, I may briefly relate the progress of a case in which I was consulted by my friend and colleague, Mr. John Clay. His patient, an elderly gentleman, had recently sprained his right ankle in going over a plowed-field. As he had a policy in one of the accidental-insurance-companies, its

medical officer saw the case, and he advised an incision to give vent to matter, which he thought had formed in the centre of the swelling. In this advice he was sustained by a hospital-surgeon, who was additionally called in on behalf of the company. Mr. Clay, dissenting, invited my attendance. I found the right ankle hot, and exquisitely painful. It was so much swollen that its circumference over the heel exceeded that of the corresponding sound joint by nearly an inch and a half. The skin on the outer side of the ankle was especially hot, red, tense and shining; palliation in this situation communicated a feeling of elasticity, closely simulating, but not amounting, to fluctuation.

With Mr. Clay's concurrence and assistance, I enveloped the limb from the toes to the knee in fine cotton-wool, applied well-moulded pasteboard splints on each side, bandaged with methodically uniform compression, and starched the outside. A second consultation was held in the course of three days, when I found the patient very much easier. He had a good night's rest, and had been able to turn over in bed, and could bear the limb lifted and put down again without pain. On opening the apparatus in front, I found that the swelling had considerably decreased; the previously red skin was yellowish and shriveled, like the skin of a late russet apple, not looking, as at my first visit, like the red, shining skin of a prime Blenheim. That shriveled look is always a good sign. I pared the edges of the case, and readjusted with firm pressure. Three days latter more shrinking was met by fresh paring, and still firmer bandaging. At a consultation, held a fortnight after the first, the patient was perfectly easy. No one thought any more about puncturing in search of matter. The insurance-company compromised the affair by paying down a substantial sum of money; and I replaced the pasteboard apparatus by strapping the joint with eplastrum-elemi, spread on leather, and a Churton's bandage, applied with smooth firmness.

When I last saw the patient with Mr. Clay, he was walking about his garden with a stick; the plaster had been very properly removed, and the swelling had subsided, the only difficulty to locomotion being stiffness of the joint. In a note which I received from my colleague, seven weeks after our first consultation, he wrote: "Our patient is progressing very satisfactorily; he comes to business every day, walks about a good deal, and does not require surgical supervision."

[For the Brief.]

USE OF CHLORIDE OF ALUMINIUM IN DRESSING WOUNDS.

Case of George H., æt. 23 years, colored. History: Contracted constitutional syphilis three years ago. After a rapid transit through the primary and secondary stages of the disease, the tertiary form made itself apparent as syphilitic caries of the os-calcis, and astragalus of the left foot. Amputation was performed just two inches and a half below the knee (the soft parts, half way up the leg, being entirely broken up by ulcers). Carbolic-acid was used as a dressing; at first 5 grains, then 10 grains, and lastly, twenty grains, to the ounce of water, without arresting the suppurative action, which was going on in the wound, in the slightest degree. I now ordered chloride of aluminium, eight grains; glycerine, two drachms; aqua, two drachms, to my entire satisfaction. In seven days the wound presented a most healthy appearance, and in two weeks from date of first application of the chloride, this patient was up and about. W. W. N.

TREATMENT OF PITYRIASIS-CAPITIS BY SOLUTION OF CHLORAL-HYDRATE.

Martineau communicates to the Societe de Therapeutique the results of his treatment of this affection in this way during the last two years. Twenty-five grammes of the chloral are dissolved in five hundred of water, and the solution is applied freely to the scalp by a sponge. The patient feels a slight heat, and the skin becomes red, but the reaction lasts but a few moments. The itching becomes less on the first day, and sometimes does not return. A few applications generally suffice, and in fresh cases a complete cure may be thus obtained, while in chronic forms great amelioration always results.

INTERNAL USE OF TAR IN PSORIASIS.

Dr. McCall Anderson confirms the opinions previously expressed by himself as to the efficacy of tar, internally administered in this disease, after the failure of arsenic and other remedies.

UTERINE-ASTHMA.

Mr. J. Waring Curran records, in *The Practitioner*, a plan of treatment which he has found most efficacious in that asthma met with not unfrequently in those patients at a particular time of life, who suffer from uterine-tumor. The drug which will relieve the asthma at any stage, he says, "is belladonna, applied locally, and given freely internally. The extract I find the most satisfactory and reliable preparation for external use, and the tincture I give internally, combined with full doses of the bromide of potassium. In the intervals I prescribe iron and strychnine, and apply iodine locally. All new-fangled remedies have failed in my hands, and subcutaneous injections have never proved either safe or satisfactory. In any instance where there is prolapse of the womb, with a tumor behind, and uterine-asthma occurring, I use a belladonna suppository. The effect on the eye is sometimes complained of, but there is little choice in the alternative of this temporary inconvenience and the nature of the suffering which uterine-asthma induces. I may say, in conclusion, that the extract of belladonna should not be confined alone to the region where the tumor is situated, but that the spinal-nerves should get the benefit of a little, spread on a piece of lint, and applied along the dorsal and lumbar spines; but applications to the chest afford about as much relief as they would to the knee in incipient hip-joint disease."

GODDARD'S COSMETIC-LOTION.

R. Tincture-benzoini.....2 drachms.
Hydrarg-chloridi corrosivi.....6 grains.
Aquæ-rosæ.....6 ounces.
Fiat mistura.

A valuable cosmetic-lotion, but must be used with caution, as it irritates some skins.

DRS. RINGER and MURRELL, in their experiments on the physiological action of *gelseminum*, finding that the drug so profoundly depresses the functions of the cord, thought that it would prevent or arrest the tetanic convulsions produced by strychnia. They experimentally determined that such was the case.—[*Lancet.*

SALICIN AND SALICYLIC-ACID IN RHEUMATISM.

On their comparative merits, Dr. Maclagen, in the *British Medical Journal*, says: "As I am probably the only person who has experience of both salicin and salicylic-acid in the treatment of acute-rheumatism, perhaps I may be allowed space for a few remarks on the merits of these two remedies.

"Which is the better remedy, salicin or salicylic-acid? That each exercises a marvelous influence in cutting short an attack of acute-rheumatism, there can be no doubt. I have used salicin or salicylic-acid in every case of acute-rheumatism which has come under my care since November, 1874 (a year and a half), and invariably with the same result: a rapid cure of the disease. Seeing a patient suffering from acute-rheumatism, I have no hesitation in assuring him that within forty-eight hours, possibly within twenty-four, he will be free from pain. This is a very different tale from any that can be told in connection with any other remedy.

"Salicin is the remedy which I used first, but I have not confined myself to it. When salicylic-acid was first recommended as a febrifuge, I determined to give it a trial in acute-rheumatism. In the first case in which I used it, 10 grains were ordered every two hours. On seeing the patient, after four doses had been taken, the general condition was a little better, but she complained much of the medicine 'burning her throat.' I urged her to continue it. This she did, and on the following morning the pain was less, and the temperature had fallen from 102.3 to 101.1; but to the burning sensation in the throat was now added sickness. I omitted the salicylic-acid, and gave the same dose of salicin—ten grains every two hours. The sickness ceased; the burning sensation in the throat disappeared, and by the following day the pain was entirely gone from the joints, and the temperature had fallen to 98.8. She made a good recovery.

"This case well exemplifies what is the chief objection to salicylic-acid—its tendency to produce irritation in the throat and stomach. I may have been unfortunate in my experience, but in every case in which I have given it, this irritation has been complained of. All writers on the subject agree in referring to this irritation as one of its unpleasant effects. The salicylate of soda seems to give rise to the same disagreeable symptom. Salicin, on the other hand, never gives rise to any

unpleasant effects. I have prescribed it the last year and a half in many different ailments, in doses ranging from 5 to 30 grains. I am probably within the mark when I say that I have thus given it to at least a hundred different people, and I cannot recall a single instance in which any disagreeable effect was produced.

"I have myself taken, by way of experiment, three doses of 60 grains—one in the forenoon, one in the afternoon, and one at night—without experiencing the least discomfort; but the smallest pinch of salicylic-acid produces in me a feeling of heat and irritation in the throat, while a dose of 10 grains gives rise to gastric-irritation and a most unpleasant burning sensation in the fauces.

"Salicin is a pleasant bitter, and is best given mixed with a little water, flavored with syrup of orange, if desired. In adequate doses, say 15 grains every two hours, it cuts short an attack of rheumatic-fever, without producing disagreeable effects. It should be continued in smaller doses during the first fortnight of convalescence.

"As remedial agents in acute-rheumatism, salicin and salicylic-acid seem to be equally efficacious; but the former has the advantage of producing no unpleasant effects. In time, too, it is sure to be much cheaper—a matter of some importance with a large class of sufferers from rheumatism."

SYMPATHETIC TREATMENT OF THE BLADDER.

BY W. T. CHANDLER, M. D.

R. Extract-belladonnæ ..... 5 grains.
Morphiæ-sulphatis ..... 2 grains.
Acidi-tannici ..... 4 grains.
Olei-theobromæ ..... q. s. M.
Ft. sup., No. 4.

SALICYLIC-MIXTURE IN DIPHTHERIA.

In the *Med. Cent. Zeitung*, Dr. Tenholt reports very flattering success in diphtheria, with a mixture of salicylic-acid and lime-water, two to two hundred. The throat is touched or gargled frequently with this. In two or three days, all his cases recovered.

TREATMENT OF ORCHITIS.

In the *Lancet*, Dr. J. R. Beck details his treatment of orchitis as follows: "I premise with the declaration that while the application of the principle may have been original with me, yet the principle itself is a very old one, and therefore no credit attaches to my application of it. The point to be gained in the treatment, as it appears to me, is to reduce the swelling as rapidly as possible. This may be attained in numerous ways, notably by the old method of 'strapping.' But strapping the organ is open to two very serious objections:

"*First:* That it does not furnish an equable support and pressure; and,

"*Second:* That it has to be frequently renewed, and thus makes too much work for the surgeon.

"All this I avoid by simply taking what are called 'male-safes,' or 'condoms,' two of which I combine by introducing the one within the other, and drawing this 'glove,' as it were, over the testicle. I have lately used the toy-balloons, which are made of India-rubber, for the same purpose. This is all I do for these cases. The rubber exercises equable and continued pressure upon the testicle, and the patient walks away very much happier than any punctured cases."

SOLUTION OF SALICYLIC-ACID.

Salicylic-acid	5 grains.
Spirit of nitrous-ether	4 drachms.
Syrup of tolu	1 ounce.

Dissolve the acid in the sweet spirit of nitre, and add the syrup.

THE following specimen of English, pure and undefiled, is from the Liverpool *Times:* "A doctor was lately summoned to a cottage at Harwood, in Teasdale, and found a boy in need of his services. 'Put out your tongue,' said the doctor. The boy stared like an owl. 'My good boy,' requested the medical man, 'let me see your tongue.' 'Talk English, doctor,' said the mother; and then, turning to her son, she said: 'Hopen thy gobler, and put out thy lolliker.' The boy rolled out his tongue in a moment."

[For the Brief.]

CHLORIDE OF ALUMINIUM IN UTERINE TROUBLES.

CASE.—Annie C., æt. 37 years; married, and mother of four children. History: From a fall, had miscarriage at about three and a half months, on March 22d; did not call me in until March 29th, when fever was high; and on examination I discovered several clots of blood in the vagina, of the most offensive odor, and characteristic of decomposition. Fearing septæmia, I at once ordered an injection of chloride of aluminium, 4 grains; glycerine, 2 drachms; aqua, 2 drachms, to be used three times daily, and in addition, had same mixture spread about in the room. In twenty-four hours, the case was in every way much improved, and continued daily, under an additional tonic-treatment, to regain strength. From very short experience with the chloride of aluminium, I am led to believe that when more widely known it will certainly beat our list of anti-septics.

W. W. N.

NITRITE OF AMYL IN ASTHMA.

Dr. Zeigler says: In asthma, it is peculiarly useful. During the month of December last, I gave it in three cases, two of whom had been affected with the disease for several months, and the other for some years. All of them suffered just prior to admission with nightly paroxysms of asthma, which disturbed sleep and created general disturbance. Two of these patients left the hospital within four weeks after their admission, apparently cured.

Six months later, I saw both of them again, and learned that the disease had not returned. The other case remains under treatment at the present time in the hospital. He is a man about sixty-five years of age, very muscular, and abounding with adipose-tissue. His lungs are very emphysematous, and frequently, during the first part of his stay in the hospital, he would have slight attacks of hæmoptysis, attributable to asthmatic-coughing. His pulse ranges from 92 to 100 beats per minute, and his respirations number from 24 to 28 in the standing-posture. A very remarkable feature of this case is the constant muscular tremor which pervades his body. Dr. Henry, the present visiting physician to the hospital, and to whom I am

under much obligation, tells me that he has known the above patient for more than a year, and that he never knew him to enjoy as good health, comparatively speaking, as he did during the past winter; and, to use the patient's own words, he "never had a good night's rest since the disease got so bad, until he took this medicine."

At first, he was given regularly at bedtime from ten to fifteen drops, but later he required it only once or twice a week, and now scarcely requires it at all. Dr. Henry also mentioned the case of a prominent medical gentleman of this city to me, who used to have annual attacks of asthma, that were finally, when everything else had seemed to fail, cured by a very short course of treatment with the nitre.

TO DISSOLVE SANTONIN.

The best method is probably to combine it with alkalies, which form with it soluble compounds possessing the same medical properties. The following is a good process:

Santonic-acid (santonin), powdered.....	2 ounces.
Caustic-soda-lye.....	4 fluid-ounces.
Distilled-water.....	12 fluid-ounces.

Heat on a sand-bath until the solution is complete, which usually requires about half an hour. On cooling, crystals are formed, containing 54 per cent. of santonin, which may be used for preparing syrups, elixirs, or other liquid mixtures.—[*Druggists' Circular.*

THE RATIONAL TREATMENT OF TAPE-WORM.

Dr. Brunton states that the chief points to be observed in the treatment are: a preliminary starvation of twenty-four hours, and the administration of a combination of kameela and male-fern—namely, two drachms of kameela to be rubbed up with a little gum and water till an emulsion is formed, and then two drachms of oil of male-fern to be added, and the whole triturated in a mortar, with a gradual addition of water till a three-ounce mixture is formed, of which half is to be given at bedtime, and the remainder four hours later. This he has never known to fail. He insists on the quality of the drugs being good.

FOREIGN BODIES IN THE EAR.

Dr. Calhoun says: Lucy A., age forty-eight years, presents herself, with the history that she let slip a medium-sized pea into the right ear a few days ago, which is now giving her some pain, and has induced considerable deafness. The case, though quite simple, is brought before you to demonstrate how *all* foreign bodies in the ear should be removed if possible. An examination with a mirror and ear-speculum discovered the pea firmly wedged in the auditory-canal, just in front of the membrana-tympani; and a little more pressure on the part of her various friends, who had been making many efforts, with as many instruments, to extricate it, would have thrown it immediately in contact with the drum-head, and probably have produced serious inflammation of the parts. These ineffectual efforts to remove it have caused the canal to become swollen, the walls having been scratched at various points. By the use of a large-sized syringe, which held sufficient water to afford a constant stream for a few moments, the ear was syringed, and after a few trials, the pea was brought out. The patient was relieved at once, and had no further trouble.

Be sure, when consulted by a person supposed to have a foreign body in the ear, to make a careful and thorough examination of the ear with mirror and speculum, and thus satisfy yourself first and foremost whether really there is anything in the canal or not; for patients will often insist that there is a bug, a pea, a button, or something of the kind in the ear, when upon examination you will find the canal free from any and all such substances. By so doing you will spare yourselves much unnecessary labor and care, and your patient much needless and barbarous pain.

[For the Brief.]

DR. BROWN SEQUARD'S PRESCRIPTION FOR EPILEPSY.

R. Iodide of ammonia	1½	drachm.
Bromide of soda	1	ounce.
Bromide of ammonia	2	drachms.
Sesqui-carbonate of ammonia	40	grains.
Tincture of columbo	2	ounces.
Infusion of columbo	4	ounces.

Mix. Teaspoonful three times a day. Last teaspoonful before bedtime upon an empty stomach.

L. G. DOANE, M. D.

CURE OF THE OPIUM-HABIT.

Several years since, the attending physician of the English Hospital, at Pekin, China, gave a formula for anti-opium pills. The remedy is composed of extract of hyoscyamus, extract of gentian, camphor, quinine, cayenne-pepper, ginger, and cinnamon, with Castile-soap and syrup to form the mass, and licorice-powder to roll the pills. As you have practiced medicine, you will no doubt easily reconstruct a serviceable pill from the data given. The efficacy of the medicine in overcoming the opium-habit, is said to have been proved in numerous cases. It is also a good help to prevent the suffering incident to the giving-up of the poison. But the medicine alone will not suffice to break-up the practice, unless the patient has will enough to resist his appetite. When he has become such a slave to the habit that he can scarcely be said to have a will of his own, his physician and his friends must come to his help, watch him, encourage him, and support him in his resolution. The pills mentioned above, or some like stimulants, will act as a substitute for the excitement he wishes to abandon, and strengthen his nerves against the reaction which ensues when the narcotic is withheld. In addition to these measures, when the case is too desperate to admit of a sudden breaking-off of the habit, a good plan is to *gradually* diminish the quantity of the opium taken. This has been done successfully by procuring a somewhat large bottle of tincture of opium, or solution of morphia, and replacing each dose taken by an equal quantity of water.

MISTURA-FERRI-COMPOSITA.

Gum-myrrh in tears	1½	drachms.
Sulphate of iron	½	drachm.
Carbonate of potassa	2	scruples.
Oil of wintergreen	6	drops.
Oil of nutmeg	2	drops.
Loaf-sugar	1	ounce.
Distilled-water	7	ounces.

Rub the myrrh with the oils, add gradually a portion of the water, making a milk of myrrh; then add the potassa and the sugar. Dissolve the iron in the remainder of the water, and mix the two liquors by trituration.

A SIMPLE PLAN OF TREATMENT IN A CASE OF CHRONIC-DIARRHŒA AND DYSENTERY.

The evidence of the chronic-diarrhœa existed in the fact that food passed the bowels in almost the same condition it was introduced into the stomach. The dysentery was secondary to an acute attack, and had lasted for six months. A great variety of remedies had been employed by the patient before his admission to the hospital, but without permanent benefit. He was at once placed in bed, and fed upon milk and cod-liver-oil, without medicine; and at the time of our visit, he had suffered very much less than at any time since the occurrence of the acute attack.

SALICYLIC-ACID IN RHEUMATISM.

Dr. Blake spoke of the good results he had recently obtained by the use of salicylic-acid in rheumatism. One case was that of a little girl, relieved in twenty-four hours, who suffered no relapse. Another case was that of an old gentleman, who took 10 grains every hour for twenty hours, with entire relief, and afterwards had only a slight recurrence of the pain.

Dr. Edes said he had met with remarkable success recently in the use of this drug in cases of rheumatism at the City Hospital. He had found that relief followed very soon after commencing the use of the remedy, and that very few relapses occurred.

Dr. C. P. Putnam reported a case of rheumatism with cardiac complications, where two drachms of salicylic-acid had been taken during the night, with entire relief of pain after sixteen hours. The patient had marked tinnitus-aurium, but no vomiting. Dr. Putnam inquired if it had been generally noticed that the temperature fell in about four hours after the cessation of the pain.

Dr. Blake said he had noticed it in most of his cases.

Dr. Bolles mentioned the case of a patient who, after having suffered four weeks from rheumatism, had obtained marked relief in twenty-four hours by the use of this remedy; another patient, suffering from a relapse, wholly recovered in a few days after commencing the use of the acid.—[*Medical and Surgical Journal.*

MENINGITIS AND ERGOT.

Dr. Sumrall writes us that he has come to the conclusion that deaths produced by compressed air are not caused by super-oxydation of the blood, but by meningitis. Immediately after the removal of pressure, in such cases, the vascular system dilates to its utmost, though the intercanio-spinal portion of it cannot, from its situation, dilate proportionately. The result is that this latter current is slowed, while that in the arteries and veins of the rest of the system is increased.

The result of this slowing is meningitis, and the rational treatment consists in restoring the proportionate calibres of the vessels. This may be accomplished by ergot. Of five cases of meningitis, treated by other methods, all died, while of seven who took ergot, all recovered. His diagnosis in such cases was: Vascular dilatation, the result of a neurosis. The fluid extract was the form used, and it was given in drachm-doses, repeated at intervals.—[*The Medical Record.*

DEEP AND QUICK INSPIRATIONS.

Says Dr. Keyser: "Foreign bodies in the eye are of very frequent occurrence, and in children and nervous people, who will not remain quiet, very difficult of removal. In such cases I have found that by getting the patient to make deep and quick inspirations of the ordinary air of the room for a few seconds or minutes of such steady, continuous breathing, the symptoms of partial anæsthesia supervene, as is evidenced by the absence of feeling on pinching or pricking with a pin. At this stage, any operation should be made. The anæsthetic effect passes almost immediately away and the patient feels no pain in the operation if done dextrously and without hesitation.

From my experience I take pleasure in recommending its use very highly, not only to ophthalmologists, but also to the general surgeon, where minor operations are to be performed.

VELPEAU'S DIARRHŒA-MIXTURE.

Tincture of opium	1 ounce.
Tincture of rhubarb	1 ounce.
Elixir-paregoric	1 ounce.
Essence of peppermint	10 drachms.
Tincture of capsicum	6 drachms.

PHYTOLLACCA IN MAMMITIS.

Dr. White reports a case of mammitis, of thirteen months, standing, which had been under treatment all the time to no purpose. He put the patient upon the phytollacca treatment; fifteen drops fluid-extract of dried root, every two hours, was ordered, but the patient overstepped the bounds and took a teaspoonful at a dose. The result was a complete cure in a short space of time.

Dr. Smith had used the phytollacca-root in a case of mammitis, of three months' standing, with complete recovery. Used it both internally and externally. He had used the dried root in several cases with invariably good results.

NITRITE OF AMYL IN INTERMITTENT-FEVER.

BY H. OSGOOD, M. D.

Three or four weeks ago, a case of intermittent-fever was brought into the Centennial Hospital during my hours of service. The patient was nearly through the stage of chill. Since I first saw the effects of the nitrite of amyl, I have made use of it in any case in which there were spasmodic-conditions, whether muscular or vaso-motor, local or general. Thus, in my hands, it has proved successful in several cases of angina-pectoris, asthma, colic, spasm of the diaphragm, etc. When, then, I was casting about in my mind for a remedy which would quickly relieve the chilly condition of my Exposition-patient, and idly wondering as to how much difference there might be at this moment between the diameters of his peripheral and organic-capillaries, it suddenly occurred to me that, since his peripheral-capillaries were in a state of contraction (as in all cases of chill), it would be perfectly logical to expect that the vaso-motor spasm would be overcome by the nitrite of amyl. I administered the remedy by inhalation, using about six drops. The remnant of the chill at once disappeared. I did not, however, consider this a fair case, because the chill-period was nearly over before I saw the patient.

A few days later, a poor German was brought to the hospital in the very acme of the cold stage; face cyanotic, teeth chattering, and he shaking himself to pieces generally. I at once

administered the amyl. Within forty seconds the chill was gone, and the patient complained of too much warmth. Five minutes later, patient began to feel chilly. A few inhalations of the remedy again flushed the surface, and there was no subsequent return of the chill; but fever came on as usual.

In a third case, the chill was more obstinate, or the remedy less effectual, for, although the chill momentarily and at once aborted, it returned several times, each recurring chill, however, being feebler than the preceding one, before I fairly conquered it, which I did by large doses (gtt xx-xxx). It may be that a heavy dose of the amyl (say 1 drachm) given at the outset would abort a chill at once, and finally. At any rate, the more I see of the effects of this remedy, the less I fear it in large doses.

It is premature for me to set the proper value on the nitrite of amyl as a remedy in malarial-fever. I have merely seen that in three cases it aborted the chill, having no especial effect upon the later stages, except more or less to shorten them.

I give my experience to the profession, hoping that physicians in malarial districts will test this remedy, and let us know whether it proves successful. There is, at any rate, something gained, if we can only abort the chill.—[*Medical Times.*

NEW METHOD OF PERFORMING CIRCUMCISION FOR PHIMOSIS.

Dr. Johnson says: "This operation seems a very simple one, yet many mistakes, at once inconvenient and ludicrous, have occurred in its performance. The cause of this mishap is found in the great elasticity, or extensibility of the tegumentary-covering, and the lack of a corresponding elasticity in the mucous portion of the prepuce. Further: there being no fixed connection between these two layers of the prepuce, their sliding, or rolling, renders it not easy to divide them both at the same point.

"The operation that I practice relieves the operator of any fear of this risk. First: I determine the point at which I will remove the prepuce. This is done by marking the integument with nitrate of silver, or indelible ink; or, better, by a nick of the knife, or transfixion with a needle. I then transfix with my bistoury the entire prepuce at this point, and make two flaps of

it, by cutting out at its extremity—the flaps of course embracing only the portion to be finally removed. Thus we obtain easy access to the inner surface of the redundant prepuce, and have its two layers under perfect control. We now remove the tegumentary layer of one of the flaps at the point previously selected, and then put the mucous-layer on the stretch, and remove it at the corresponding point.

"The mucous-membrane, I repeat, unlike the integument, needs to be put somewhat *on the stretch*. The other flap is then divided in the same manner, on a level with the first. The stump presents the same appearance as when properly made in the more usual manner. The edges of the two layers are then stitched with fine silk sutures. These edges may be more neatly approximated by retracting the whole integument of the penis, and turning back the mucous-layer like a cuff.

"The operation is much simpler than will be inferred from the complicated description given above. Its only advantage over those generally practiced is a certainty of securing the desired shape and length. It avoids the possible accident of leaving too much mucous-membrane for use and too little skin for elegance.

"A patient on whom I recently practiced this operation, presented some points of interest, in that we could observe the effect of a previous operation in which the mistakes above hinted at were made, and then aggravated by leaving the cut edges to take care of themselves without even a stitch to secure them. The skin was still rather long; the mucous-membrane was contracted into a complex mass, but when put on the stretch was full two inches in length. The phimosis was still unrelieved. The edges of both layers were ulcerated. It was well-nigh impossible to find the meatus, even with a probe. The patient had been thus treated, or mistreated, in Texas. Coming to this city, he came under care of Dr. H. B. Lee, and with the doctor I saw him. The method described answered admirably for unraveling the hidden condition, and securing a perfect result."
—[*Atlanta Medical and Surgical Journal.*

FRECKLE-LOTION.

Take sulpho-carbolate of zinc	2 parts.
Glycerine	25 parts.
Rose-water	25 parts.
Cologne-water	5 parts.

THE ANTI-SEPTIC PROPERTIES OF IODINE.

Dr. Williams writes to the *Lancet:* "We have more than one substance—one in particular—that will not tolerate the presence of putrid animal-matter or septic-poisons; this drug is *iodine*, which, as soon as it is brought into contact with septic-matter, is converted into two harmless substances. Let any medical practitioner who has been in attendance on any case, whether a parturient female or any other, where there happens to be putrid emanation, wash his hands in water into which he has poured *tincture of iodine*, and I will answer for it, he has no septic-matter under his finger-nails. Again: if he fancies that his clothes, hair, and skin are saturated with it, let him go into the water-closet (I mention that as the smallest room in the house), place a few scales of iodine on a plate, and put a spirit-lamp under it, and he will soon find himself surrounded by a violet vapor, which will fall upon him in a shower of minute scales, from which he has only to protect his eyes. If he then carries with him any of the puerperal poison, my whole theory of the disease must be wrong. One thing I can assert, that in my own practice I have never had a case of fatal puerperal septicæmia since I have used iodine as an anti-septic, now more than twenty years ago."

CHOLERA.

At the meeting of the American Medical Association, Dr. Rogers read a paper on cholera, as follows:

"Cholera is of spontaneous origin. It is one of the neuroses. The nerves fail to perform their duty, and hence the want of pain. Vomiting is simply regurgitation. The cramps are of purely nervous origin.

"It is not contagious. It is portable. Quarantine and disinfection are useless as prophylactics. In the treatment, time is of great importance. Opium heads the list of remedies. The acetate of morphia acts quickly, especially hypodermically. It need not be used heroically. The fourth to the sixth of a grain, repeated as necessary. To relieve the brain, enfeebled by the loss of serum of the blood, elevate the body, so that the head will be lowest, and kept full of blood by gravitation. This also aids in checking the bowels, as the fluids act on the sphincter to

provoke catharsis. The erect position must be interdicted. Ice must be given freely, to relieve the stomach. Circulation must be promoted by heat, friction, etc. Camphor, capsicum, the mineral-acids, etc., should be used, principally in the earlier and later stages.

"The morphia may be used by blistering the surface with a lighted match, etc., and spreading it over the spot, or it may be blown into the air-passages with good effect. Fever is rarely present. The fever of reaction may be met by opium, nitre, chlorate of potassa, etc.

"Alimentation and internal stimulants may be employed as demanded by the stomach or enemata. Never despair. Recovery occurs even when all hope has fled." He quoted several cases to illustrate his views.

Dr. Foster directed the members to the point where there is no pain, though full discharges are constant. He had seen three epidemics. The patients must be kept perfectly quiet until they are quite restored. This is the difficulty. Patients will not believe, as they have no pain, that they are in any danger, and will walk out, though having eight to ten passages a day.

Dr. Caldwell, M. D., regarded isolation as important, and hence the value of quarantine.

Dr. Ulrich regarded it as one of the neuroses. He mentioned an instance where Dr. Cartwright had cut short a terrible epidemic, every case dying, by simply taking the people out into the woods, with only a blanket, a skillet, and a cup to drink from. Not another case occurred. This shows the influence of the mind upon a nervous disease.

Dr. Rogers mentioned some cases. One, a man nearly dead, had his body placed with the feet elevated, and morphia was given hypodermically. He improved and did well.

QUININE AND MORPHINE.

It has been noticed in several cases that when one-quarter of a grain of morphine would not produce sleep, if ten grains quinine were administered a short time previous to administering the morphine, the morphine would almost invariably act efficiently. This fact was noticed in connection with puerperal cases.

MISTURA-FERRI-AROMATICA.

Pale cinchona-bark in powder	1	ounce.
Calumba-root in coarse powder	½	ounce.
Cloves, bruised	¼	ounce.
Fine iron-wire	½	ounce.
Peppermint-water	12	fluid-ounces.

Macerate in a closed vessel for three days, agitating occasionally. Filter: add:

Peppermint-water sufficient to complete	12½	fluid-ounces.

And add:

Compound tincture of cardamon	3	fluid-ounces.
Tincture of orange-peel	½	ounce.

A CONVENIENT LOCAL ANODYNE.

Take of elastic collodion, one ounce; hydro-chlorate of morphia, fifteen grains; dissolve the morphia-salt in the collodion; spread with a camel hair-brush some of this solution on the painful part, and place some oiled-silk over the spot. The effect is stated to be most satisfactory.—[*London Lancet.*

FAT-MEAT.

Dr. Cook, in the Virginia *Medical Monthly*, says if people wish to be healthy, they must eat meat with other essential ingredients. Yes, but one will say, "I do not like it." Well, the answer should be, "You must take it or *do worse.*" In the every-day business of life all have to do things they do not like, or make an utter failure. So people must eat meat, no difference whether bacon, beef or fish, if it contain oleaginous material in sufficient quantities, or they are not likely to be healthy. More particularly is this true with regard to those with strumous habit. Some are afraid their delicate children cannot stand fat-meat. My instruction and advice, when I am asked, is to feed children on meat for breakfast and dinner anyhow, and let them have it for supper if they want it. Show me a greasy-mouthed child, and one who clamors for meat at meals, and I will show you one that is red-rosy—one that does not look weak and sickly, but is full of vigor and life. It does me good to see such children, and I have many in my mind now. To be sure, butter eaten in large quantities would answer the demand for oils.

There is an old idea that children who study and students at boarding-schools need but little nourishment. Many a youth has been sent to his grave by such nonsense, such ignorance, such an outrage upon the laws of nature. Why do so many girls have their menses suspended at boarding-schools? Because they are not fed as they should be. They are taught to be delicate, shun rich diet, live upon dainties; and then they will soon decline. No boarding-school should exist unless the inmates are properly fed.

Besides, persons who are in delicate health, who dislike fat-meats, if they will begin on small quantities at first, and take them regularly, the system will improve in health; and then there will be a demand for such food, instead of loathing it.

I beg pardon, as I have said more than I intended. But when any one will not eat meat, admonish him of the great danger of consumption, especially if a relative has died of it.

THE HAMAMELIS-VIRGINICA.

This indigenous shrub, familiarly known as the *witch-hazel*, belonged to the native American materia-medica. The Indians used it as a discutient in inflammation following sprains and similar injuries. Our homœopathic friends use a strong tincture of it for the same purpose. In an article which may be found in this journal, August 3, 1867, Dr. Durham extols it as a preventive of abortion. And in the Edinburgh *Medical Journal*, for last March, Dr. Hewan, of London, is stated to have reported a case in which severe post-abortion-hemorrhage was promptly checked by its administration. Its specific powers on the uterus merit closer investigation.—[*Medical and Surgical Reporter.*

CHLORAL AS AN ANTI-CONVULSIVE.

M. de St. Germain believed chloral an eminently useful remedy in convulsive diseases, and related a case in which he had given it by the mouth to a child fourteen years old, the subject of tetanus, in doses increasing from 3 to 12 grammes per diem, the patient recovering on the seventeenth day.

RAPID DIMINUTION OF A REMARKABLY LARGE SPLEEN UNDER THE HYPODERMIC EMPLOYMENT OF ERGOT.

BY J. H. MILLER, M. D.

Mrs. S., aged 28, married, the mother of three children, of previous good health, was attacked in August last with bilious-fever, as she states; recovered, but shortly relapsed, and has since that time been suffering from frequent attacks of intermittent-fever, of the quotidian type.

Her physician, not having been penetrated with the incandescence of advancing medical science, but a thoroughly stereotyped routinist, put her through on remedies of the most absolute character, and what her disease had not already done for her, he very effectually accomplished.

On the first day of January, I called to see her, and found her in extreme prostration and very anæmic, with dyspepsia, neuralgia, and a marked form of intermittent-fever, and with a spleen of extraordinary dimensions; so large was it that the whole abdominal cavity, from the extreme left to the middle of the right hypochondrium, and from the umbilicus into the epigastrium, was occupied by its presence.

After improving her general condition, by proper alimentation, by tonics, and by stimulants, I addressed my remedies more particularly to the reduction of the size of the spleen, and prescribed for that purpose large doses of quinine, chloride of ammonium, and iodine, with iodio-croton liniments externally.

Having failed, after considerable perseverance, with these remedies, to elicit a favorable response, I determined to abandon them entirely, and put the therapeutic powers of ergot fairly to the test.

No other remedies were administered except tinct.-gentian, ℥ ounces; acidi-hydrocyanic, dilut., 24 drops; one teaspoonful thrice daily, for some gastric troubles which seemed to call for special attention.

On the sixth day of February, I made the first hypodermic injection of ergot. I visited her again on the seventh, and made the second injection; and, although I did not find any diminution in the size of the spleen, yet discovered a very sensible change in its character and consistency. On the 8th, I made the third injection; and at that visit there was a very perceptible

shrinkage. Owing to professional engagements of a different character, I did not visit her on the 9th. On the 10th, I made the fourth insertion, and found a very decided diminution in its size; and for four consecutive days, I made injections, with rapid and marked diminution. On the 14th, it had almost attained its normal size. Thus, from the 9th to the 14th, that enormous spleen had almost entirely disappeared under the hypodermic use of ergot alone. On the 14th of March, I called in order to ascertain if the improvement had been permanent. She met me at the door with a recognition of complaisance, and with expressions of profound gratitude. The spleen was normal.—[*Medical Record.*

TWINS.

The fact that twins often resemble each other so closely as to make it very difficult for one of them to be distinguished from the other, is well known, but the probable cause or reason why one pair of twins should possess this similarity, whilst another pair are no more alike than other children born in the same family at different periods, has elicited but little attention. I have a plausible theory, based upon extensive observation and inquiry. All cases of *fac simile* representations that I have seen have been where the *two children have been contained in the same sac of waters.* On calling the attention of physicians to this subject, they not only regard the theory as plausible, but some of them have met with cases coming under their immediate observation.

I. F. Bird, M. D.

Philadelphia, June 27, 1876.

COMMON SALT AS A MEDICINE.

We are very apt to neglect common things, especially if they are cheap, for new articles of considerable cost. We neglect common salt, which is, undoubtedly, the best form in which soda can be appropriated, for other salts of soda, and frequently for salts of potash, which do not answer the purpose nearly so well. In those cases in which the tongue is broad and pale, and covered with a pasty, white coat, there is nothing better than a weak solution of common salt, used as a drink.

SPIDER-WEB IN CHRONIC-INTERMITTENTS.

In the Cincinnati *Lancet and Observer*, Dr. L. M. Jones reports that having failed, in the case of a girl aged ten years, in treating a case of chronic-intermittent with quinine, camphor, chinodine-pills, arsenic, eucalyptus, iodine, phosphoric-acid, etc., he adopted the suggestion of Dr. Jackson, in the U. S. Dispensatory, to use spider-web.

A bunch of spider-web, collected from a dark cellar (as it is the web of a species of spider which inhabits dark places that possesses medicinal properties), about the size of a large hulled-walnut, was put into four ounces of whisky, and allowed to macerate forty-eight hours, when it was filtered. The patient took a teaspoonful four hours before the expected chill, and at hourly intervals, until she had taken four doses, and then took a like quantity before each meal and at bedtime, until all was taken. Although the anticipated chill came, it was very light, and was the last one experienced up to the time of the report, a period of four months. Neither the patient nor her friends knew the nature of the remedy used, so imagination had no effect in the cure. The remedy has succeeded equally well in subsequent cases.

[For the Brief.]

PROF. HENRY HARTSHORN'S PRESCRIPTION FOR CHOLERA-INFANTUM.

R. Hydg. chlor. mit..... 2 grains.
Bi-carbonate of soda..... 20 grains.
Pulverized-ginger..... 10 grains.
Misturale-cretae..... 10 grains.

Mix et fiat pulves 12.

S. Take one powder three times a day in a small glass of water.

L. G. DOANE, M. D.

AT a recent meeting of one of the medical societies of Cincinnati, Dr. Comegys remarked that for more than ten years he had treated the vomiting of pregnancy with complete success by the use of atropine in doses of from one-sixtieth to one-eightieth of a grain, as often as was necessary to bring the patient under its moderate influence.

ETHER IN POST-PARTUM-HEMORRHAGE.

At a recent meeting of the Dublin Obstetrical Society, as reported in the Dublin *Journal of Medical Science*, by Dr. Macan, gives an account of a case of complicated labor, in which collapse from post-partum-hemorrhage was successfully treated with the subcutaneous injection of ether. The patient, aged thirty-three, in her eleventh pregnancy, had a long and tedious first stage of labor, the uterus being greatly over-distended by hydrops-amnii. After the rupture of the membranes, the uterus remained for a long time in a state of complete inertia, and after the birth of a monstrosity, there were post-partum-hemorrhage and retained placenta. Pressure failing to expel the placenta, and to cause the uterus to contract, the after-birth was, with difficulty, removed by the hand introduced into that organ. Even then the uterus remained large, and notwithstanding the administration of laudanum, chloric-ether, and brandy, the patient's condition remained very critical. The reporter then determined to try the subcutaneous injection of sulphuric-ether, as recommended by Prof. V. Hecker, of Munich. Examination showing that there was still a small amount of blood flowing from the vulva, Dr. Macan determined to combine the injection of the per-chloride of iron into the uterus with the subcutaneous injection of ether. He injected two syringefuls, or about half a drachm of sulphuric-ether well into the subcutaneous cellular-tissue of the abdominal walls, and then injected about six ounces of the usual solution of iron into the uterus. Before he had finished injecting the iron, the pulse returned at the wrist, and emboldened by this, he injected a third syringeful of ether. The effect produced was marked; the woman soon turned, of her own accord, on to her side, and said that she felt better. The patient made a good recovery.

LEMON-TONIC.

R. Tr. ferri chlor	½	drachm.
Sol. cinch. sulph. [grs. 30 in fl. oz.]	1	ounce.
Acid. citric	½	drachm.
Syrup. simpl	1½	ounce.
Aquæ, q. s. ad. fl	4	ounces.

M. Tablespoonful.

BURNS.

Dr. Brown says: Of all local applications in the experience of the writer, iodoform, prepared with extract of conium, and spermaceti-ointment, with a small portion of carbolic-acid, appears to meet the several indications best.

This agent acts as a certain and most effective sedative on the painful and irritable exposed surface, and at the same time as an anti-septic. It reduces irritation, inflammation and suppuration, when in excess, in a remarkable manner. In converts a most painful and irritable wound into one comparatively painless with promptness.

This remedy is also an excellent promotive of healthy action and of the healing process. I have experimented with iodoform-ointment in these cases repeatedly, and always have the same pleasant result. The use of this preparation has another advantage: it renders the constant use of anodynes unnecessary. The following formula has been found the best:

R. Iodoformi	2	drachms.	
Unguent cetacei	1	ounce.	
Ext. conii	½	drachm.	
Acid. carbol	10	drops.	M.

This ointment is spread twice daily on soft linen, and applied over the inflamed surface, and then enveloped in oiled-silk. No other dressing is necessary. The only objection to the use of this remedy, is its peculiar odor. In those cases of burns attended with great *dryness* of surface from destruction of vitality and want of exhalation, the wound, before being covered with the iodoform-ointment, should be coated over with the common linimentum-calcis. This affords a soft and moist dressing, which in no wise interferes with the action of the iodoform.

YELLOW-FEVER.

It is a singular fact that yellow-fever has never appeared in any climate at the hight of 2,500 feet. In the Island of Dominica, a hill not more than 1,500 feet high, was always healthy, although the fever raged as an epidemic at its base. In San Domingo, similar observations have been made. The highest elevation at which yellow-fever has occurred in the United States, is 460 feet, in Arkansas.

NIGHT-SWEATS OF PHTHISIS.

Sulphate of atropia is regarded as an excellent remedy for their arrest. It is usually administered in a simple dose at bed-time, of 1-60 a grain.

Aromatic-sulphuric-acid.

Niemeyer's pill. Niemeyer's pill and atropia used in conjunction. Oxide of zinc and hyoscyamus were said to be efficient with their cases.

The pill called Niemeyer's, or the one he ordinarily prescribed, properly known by the name of Heim's pills, is in general prescription. The formula for the pill is as follows:

R. Pulv. herb. digitalis..... 10 grains.
Pulv. rad. ipecac..... 3 "
Pulv. opii puri..... 5 "
Ext. helleisii, q. s. n. f. pl. No. xx.
Comp. pulv. rad. irid. flor.

S. A pill three times daily. The addition of a scruple of quinine to the above prescription constitutes Niemeyer's modification, and is added for its anti-pyretic effect. This pill of Niemeyer's is very commonly prescribed in hospitals in cases of phthisis, and is regarded as a very valuable combination of remedies.

BALLANITIS.

We are not unfrequently applied to by persons suffering from irritation of the glans-penis, immediately back of the corona-glandis, and the lining of the prepuce. Occasionally this goes on until the epithelium is removed, and there is a considerable purulent discharge. Whatever means you may deem advisable to render the treatment profitable, you will find that a free use of *glycerine*-soap and water will effect a speedy cure.—[*Exchange*.

NURSING SORE-MOUTH.

R. Chlorate of potash..... 2 drachms.
Boiling-water..... 10 ounces.
Muriatic-acid..... 40 drops.
Creosote..... 10 drops.
Alcohol..... ½ ounce.

Mix. Use as a gargle.

SUN-STROKE.

The sub-cutaneous injections of quinine, as recommended by Surgeon Hall, in *The Practitioner*, for March, appears to have produced marvelous results in a case described by him. The cold-douche had been employed, and ice applied to the nape of the neck, without effect; the heart's action was rapidly failing. Stimulants could be administered only with great difficulty, and the case was becoming desperate, when quinine was administered sub-cutaneously. An improvement of the symptoms encouraged a further trial, and the patient made a rapid recovery. About five grains only were administered in this case. For those of our readers who have not employed quinine in this way, we would state that one drop of dilute sulphuric-acid and ten minims of water are necessary for the solution of one grain of quinine. The ordinary sub-cutaneous-syringe could thus hold three grains of quinine.

Probably other remedies have a similar action, as salicylic-acid may be found to be useful, although this latter drug could not be administered with the same facility.

We point to this line of treatment as one which has not yet been thoroughly tested, and hope that those who come in contact with this disease this season will see fit to publish their experience.

CHLORAL IN DELIRIUM.

Dr. Peabody reports a case of fracture of the skull: A man, about thirty years of age, while riding home, intoxicated, was thrown from his wagon, receiving a bad fracture of the skull. The fracture was nearly over, and in the direction of the coronal suture of the right side, and was three inches long, by one inch and a half wide, compound and comminuted. The fragments of bone were driven an inch and a half within the cranium, lacerating the membranes, and causing the loss of considerable of the brain substance. To dress the wound, it was necessary to administer ether, but the patient was not fully conscious, and for several days afterwards had mild delirium. The wound was cleaned and its edges brought together with several sutures, a cold compress applied, and cochia-pill ordered, to be repeated every four hours, if necessary. On the second day quite a

quantity of pus and broken-down brain-substance escaped from the wound, and there was beginning paralysis of the left arm. For the next few days delirium became more marked, though not at any time violent, but the patient was very restless and excitable. The face was much swollen, the tongue and teeth were covered with sordes, the pulse was quick and feeble, and the prognosis decidedly unfavorable. The discharge from the wound was healthy pus—considerable in quantity. The patient became more and more restless, refusing to take anything given as medicine, but drank a good deal of milk. Chloral was now administered, in milk, in twenty-grain doses every three hours. Only two doses were necessary to induce sound sleep.

From this time, delirium vanished, and the patient began to improve; the swelling disappeared from the face, and the appetite and sleep became good. There had been for several days some protrusion of the brain at the wound, but this was overcome, and perfect union of the wound resulted. When he left the hospital, twenty-four days after admission, there was some paralysis of the opposite arm remaining, but otherwise his recovery seemed to be nearly perfect.

NEUTRALIZING CORDIAL--VALUABLE IN DIARRHŒA, ACID-SECRETIONS, ETC.--SPECIALLY IN CHILDREN.

Take of best *India rhubarb*, one pound, beat it up to a coarse powder, put in a covered vessel and pour on it one gallon of water; letting it stand where it will keep hot, but not boil, for two hours; now strain, with pressure, and heating again, add *bi-carbonate of soda*, one pound; white sugar, four pounds; and when nearly cold, half an ounce of oil of peppermint, dissolved in one pint of alcohol of 76 degrees.

PIMPLE-CERATE.

Take cold-cream	1 ounce.
Nitrate of bismuth	40 grains.
White-precipitate	40 grains.
Oil of bergamot	20 drops.

DYSENTERY.

R. Castor-oil	1	ounce.
Comp. syr. of rhubarb	1	ounce.
Soda	½	ounce.
Turpentine	1	drachm.
Tinc.-lavender	1	ounce.

Dose, from one to two tablespoonfuls every three hours, until free catharsis is produced, then one-half ounce every three hours to keep up gentle action upon the bowels, until the tormina and tenesmus are subdued; at the same time, give from five to ten grains of quinine and from one to three grains of gelsemin in the course of the twenty-four hours.

PARAFFINE-POMADE.

Paraffine-ointment seems to be peculiarly adapted for use as an application to the hair, as the hydro-carbons composing it are not, like other oils, prone to combine with oxygen. It can be conveniently perfumed with any desirable odor. We present herewith a sample of the following:

Paraffine-ointment	10 ounces.
Oil of rose	20 drops.
Oil of bergamot	30 drops.

HOW TO ADMINISTER CHLOROFORM WITH SAFETY.

With many practitioners, it must often happen that they must administer chloroform and perform their obstetric operations single-handed. Here the administration of the anæsthetic causes great anxiety. In such circumstances, the following plan will be found very satisfactory. Doubtless for ordinary operations ether is taking, or, one might almost say, has taken, the place of chloroform. No sooner, indeed, was the brilliant introducer of chloroform dead, and the powerful advocacy of his enthusiastic, as well as able, pen no longer available, than the claims of ether began at once to assert themselves, and the reign of the more dangerous chloroform began to wane. Still, for obstetric purposes, chloroform is yet chiefly used, and such use has been found singularly free from danger. A pleasant, safe, and economical

method of administering it will be found in placing a handkerchief in an ordinary tumbler, and then dropping some chloroform upon the handkerchief, the tumbler, after this, being held to the nose. The advantages of such plan are these: The tumbler cannot be so applied as to entirely exclude an admixture of air along each side of the nose. Then but a small quantity of chloroform is used, for as soon as each pain is over, the tumbler can be placed bottom upwards on a plate, and the loss by evaporation reduced to a minimum. So slowly does the evaporation take place that the medical attendant can add the chloroform required himself, and so be sure of the quantity. Further: in emergencies, the patient may administer the chloroform herself, the glass falling from the hand as soon as unconsciousness creeps over her. In this respect, this plan is much superior to the old one of giving the anæsthetic on a handkerchief alone, which often kept its place after the hand had lost all command over it. As a means of administering chloroform in ordinary cases, the practitioner will find this plan to possess great advantages, and to secure the patient very safely against danger as well as to be the most convenient and economical. Where it is necessary to trust the administration to a nurse, while the medical attendant is engaged otherwise, by this means all risk is avoided, and occasional supervision is all that is necessary.

POISONOUS-ROOMS.

Nothing short of "line upon line" is sufficient to impress great practical truths; hence the reiteration of the fact that using wall-paper having a green color in it, especially if fuzzy, and not glazed, is immediately destructive of health, and of life itself if persisted in; as proof: H. Fulland, near Tipton, England, lately moved in a new house; all his children became curiously affected, worse at night than during the day; they were exceedingly restless; a singular twitching or jerking of the muscles, especially of the face, and general decline of health, indicated the working of some insidious agency. The physician had them promptly removed to another room, when they began at once to recover their health. On a small piece of green-colored paper on the walls of the room left, there was found on analysis enough arsenic to poison a man.

Dr. Pardo reported to the Imperial Society of Medicine of Constantinople the following facts:

A healthy woman was attended in her confinement by a midwife. She progressed favorably until the seventh day, complaining only of slight tenderness in the left iliac-fossa. On the night of the seventh day, the doctor was summoned, and found the woman in a very dangerous condition; she died in the morning at 6 o'clock. The doctor found that the same midwife had attended, only a few days before, a woman who also died in childbed; and he discovered a third case that had been attended by the same person, that also terminated fatally. A fourth case was presented by Dr. Pechedemaldji; but as the woman died thirty-six hours after delivery, and suffered from hemorrhage, accompanied with vomiting and tympanitis, it was considered doubtful whether she died from the fever or from flooding.

In the light of such facts, what guaranty have we against the danger of irresponsible persons carrying the seeds of contagion of one of the most fatal maladies into the bosom of our families? It is not often that a connected history like the one just given is met with. That such cases occur, and occur frequently, is not doubted by those who have the best means of judging. Should there not be some regulation to prevent a person who has just attended a fatal case of puerperal-fever, or other contagious disease, from attendance upon the first unsuspecting prospective mother? It has been said that the overwhelming majority of people are reckless of their lives, but careful of their money. Why should there not be a law to protect such persons, if they are too ignorant, or unable to protect themselves, in the same manner as the law steps in to protect people who are incapable of protecting themselves under other circumstances of danger?

SANTONIN-POISONING AND ITS ANTIDOTE.

An extract from a report by Prof. Binz, on santonin-poisoning, states that the spasms and tetanic convulsions produced by an overdose of the drug, may be easily subdued by inhalations of chloroform or ether; and in addition, purgatives and plenty of drink should be given for its speedy elimination.

Joseph R. Wilson, M. D., Medical Director, U. S. N., presented and read, in part, a paper on "Malaria," demonstrating, by numerous examples, the exclusive communicability of miasmatic-poison at night, between sundown and sunrise. Discussion elicited from Dr. Wilson and Dr. Bell much information from observation in the naval service, in regard to the protection afforded by water on malarious coasts. Dr. Wilson cited the practice of laborers on the rice-plantations which border the rivers in China. At nightfall, the laborers betake themselves to their boats and push off to midstream, and there remain until sunrise, protected by the intervening water, a river a mile wide affording complete protection from either shore. Hence it may be inferred that a half a mile of intervening water is sufficient for complete immunity from disease, which is sure to be contracted by dwelling on shore during the night-time. Dr. Bell cited similar observations on the Spanish Main and coast of Africa, and stated his belief in the same protective influence against yellow-fever, though not, perhaps, under the same limitation as to distance. He regards the usual custom in the navy, when practicable, not to anchor within two miles of malarious shores, and the absolute prohibition of spending the night on such shores, as one of the best customs of the service.

THE MANAGEMENT OF PILES.

In some remarks on this subject before the Harveian Society, of London, Mr. A. Cooper advised that in all cases of piles, the general health, the diet, and the digestive organs must be attended to. When the piles were external, astringent-lotions were to be preferred to ointments; if necessary, the pile might be incised, and the blood-clot turned out. In internal piles, in addition to the general management, it was desirable to adopt as local treatment the application of iced-water to the mass when down, and to return it with a little simple ointment. In florid people, piles often gave relief, and it was undesirable to remove them; but when the patients were exhausted by loss of blood, by the irritating discharge often present, or when the protruded mass caused much inconvenience, then removal by the clamp and actual cautery, or by ligature, was indicated.

PHOSPHATE OF SODA IN SMALL DOSES.

The action of phosphate of soda is that of a mild saline aperient when administered in large doses, but it is an important alterative in small doses. It is an important salt in the animal economy, and one often sadly deficient in the food for children. Dr. Marcet has pointed out that the fatty-acids are converted into an emulsion by its agency, and that they thus may become more easily assimilated. It is of much value wherever, from an unhealthy character of the motions, the visceral secretions seem to be abnormal. The parents should be directed to put a pinch of the powder into each article of food the child receives. There appears to be a similarity between its action and that sought by the administration of gray powder "in alterative doses." It is of service in cases of chalky-stools or white fluid motions in infants who are being artificially reared, and who are liable to frequent derangement of the bowels.

SALICYLIC-ACID—FORMULA OF SOLUTION.

Salicylic-acid	1 drachm.
Potassium-acetate	1 drachm.
Glycerine	1 drachm.
Water	1 ounce.

Mix and dissolve by shaking. This solution contains one grain of salicylic-acid in eight minims; but may be made even stronger, as the limit of solubility has not by any means been reached.

This solution has taken the place of all others in the practice in Bellevue and other hospitals; and from reports received from the physicians, it appears to act more rapidly and to be more easily borne than any other.

INTUSSUSCEPTION.

In a case of "*intussusception*," where quicksilver, croton-oil, and other powerful means had failed, and for nine days the patient had nothing to pass through the bowels, the drinking of a pint of hot molasses, without stopping, gave immediate and permanent relief, without vomiting, nausea, or anything of the kind. *How* it acted, is worthy of investigation.

SULPHO-CARBOLATE OF SODIUM.

Dr. Woodbury says in *Va. Medical Monthly:* We know of but two physicians who have used this remedy besides ourself—an article that we consider one of the most valuable in the entire materia-medica. Our attention was first directed to it by an article in one of the journals in 1869. At that time we were treating a bad case of scarlet-fever. We tried in vain to procure the sulpho-carbolate of sodium; it could not be found in our city at that time. Before it was received from New York, our patient died. Since that time, we have had many cases to treat, sometimes three or four in the same family in succession. In every case the sulpho-carbolate of sodium has been commenced early, and continued until convalescence was assured. Of course this was not entirely depended upon, but the local lesions and other indications were met, as seemed necessary in each individual case. A brief history of one of our cases may prove of interest.

W. C., aged four years, the child of parents who were of robust constitution, was seen by me, late at night, suffering from a burning fever, face flushed, skin dry and rough, pulse 130. Warm teas were freely administered during the night, with spts.-ætheris-nitrosi. The next morning, the eruption was well-developed, and a clear diagnosis (scarlet-fever) was made. Sulpho-carbolate of sodium was at once ordered, and the bowels moved by a mild laxative. On the third day, anginose symptoms of a severe type appeared. The throat was thoroughly mopped *ter in die*, with a solution of potas.-permaganat, one drachm to one pint of water, and the patient was ordered to take a little beef-tea daily, if it did not disturb the stomach. In accordance with an old fancy, to please the parents, bacon-rind was applied to the child's neck. The case proved to be a severe one, as the following sequelæ proved. About the twenty-fourth day, the glands on both sides of the jaw began to swell. By the use of tinct.-iodini, locally, the swelling on one side was arrested, but finding that the other side was not affected by its application, we poulticed it freely, and when soft, opened the abscess that had formed. After the fever had run its course, there was such a debility that when the patient attempted to drink from a cup, his hand shook like that of a person affected with palsy. This recovery, though slow, was complete.

When we treated this case, the epidemic was of a severe type, not less than half a dozen deaths having occurred in the neighborhood, while many of those who recovered suffered from incurable sequelæ. Our little patient is, to-day, entirely free from the lesions that so often follow this terrible disease. We say terrible, for before we used the sulpho-carbolate, we confess that we felt unable to cope with it successfully. Since we have been using it, we have not lost a single case.

In rubeola, we have found it equally efficacious. In one family, we had three cases of the disease—a child, its mother and uncle. In the child and uncle, the disease was of a mild type. In the mother, it was of a malignant character—the worst case we ever saw. Her friends and neighbors called it "a case of black-small-pox." The eruption seemed of a livid color. So severe was the cough that we feared pneumonia would complicate the case. To our surprise, this result was prevented. From the commencement, the sulpho-carbolate of sodium was administered, and this, with expectorants, laxatives, etc., carried our patient safely through.

In several cases of variola and varioloid, we have had excellent results from the use of this remedy, not having lost a single patient from these diseases since we have been using it.

We would, by no means, give the impression that we depend upon this remedy entirely in these cases; far from it. Yet we use it persistently—believing, as we do, that it acts in such a manner as to materially modify the poison in these diseases of a zymotic type, and aids in the eliminations of the poison from the system. Any peculiar symptoms or complications that may arise we meet with such remedies as the nature of the case may seem to require.

As a rule, no unpleasant effects follow its administration, and large doses are well tolerated. An adult may take from twenty grains to one drachm *ter in die.* To children, we give from x to xv grains, dissolved in aqua-cinnamon. They generally take it without difficulty, as the taste is not offensive. If we base our opinion of the merits of the sulpho-carbolate of sodium upon an experience of over six years' employment of it in all of our cases of a zymotic type, we must candidly confess that we believe it to be a remedy of superior value in such cases, one well worthy of a more general trial by all who desire to "try all things and hold fast that which is good."

TREATMENT OF WHOOPING-COUGH.

At the late session of the American Medical Association, in the Section on Practice of Medicine, etc., during the interesting discussion on whooping-cough as a neurosis, Dr. Caldwell, of Baltimore, who was the leader in the discussion, remarked that he had been enabled to cut short the disease in a few days by using the following in the form of spray:

R. Fluid-extract-belladonna	8 drops.
Bromide-ammonium	20 grains.
Bromide-potassium	40 grains.
Distilled-water	1 ounce.

M. Use as a spray three or four times a day.

The Doctor uses Codman and Shurtleff's spray-atomizer, which is regarded as the best of all instruments yet introduced for the purpose of atomization. The instrument is charged, placed on a table, and set in full operation. Then the little patient is placed before it; he cries, and by the deep inspirations, the medicated-spray is carried in the bronchial-tubes and air-cells of the lungs. Two or three days of this treatment breaks the spasm and relieves the whoop effectually and permanently. This treatment, Dr. Caldwell says, was suggested by Niemeyer's view, that the pathology of the disease consisted in extreme hyperæsthesia and catarrh of the mucous-membrane of the air-passages.

HARLEM-OIL.

Linseed-oil	2 pints.
Rosin	1 pound.
Sulphur	1 pound.
Oil of turpentine	1 pint.
Ammonia	50 drops.

Boil together the linseed-oil, the rosin, and the sulphur, over a slow fire, until they are combined; remove from the fire, and add the turpentine and the ammonia.

IODINE-CAUSTIC.

Iodine-caustic is prepared by dissolving 4 grammes of iodine in 8 grammes of glycerine. It is used in lupus by applying it once every other day, and covering the parts with gutta-percha. This treatment is continued for several weeks.

HYDRARG-CUM-CRETA—IMPROVED FORMULA.

In *American Journal of Pharmacy*, Mr. Bibby says: "Mercury with chalk, made according to the formula in the 'United States' Pharmacopœia,' does not come up to the wants of the physician, on account of the imperfect division of the mercury; and, owing to this fact, it has fallen considerably into disuse. After trying various means, none answered so well and was as convenient as sugar of milk. I prepare it in the following manner:

HYDRARGYRUM-CUM CRETA.

Take of mercury	3 ounces.
Prepared-chalk	4 ounces.
Sugar of milk	1 ounce.

Rub the mercury, prepared-chalk and sugar of milk into an impalpable powder, and pass it through a fine sieve.

"The above formula, although not containing the same amount of prepared-chalk, contains the metallic-mercury in the same proportion (3 in 8) as called for in the 'Pharmacopœia,' and is more efficacious as a remedy, as the mercury is more thoroughly divided."

BEEF-TEA.

The above nutriment is so often employed at the present time, that the following method of making an excellent article will be of value. It is taken from Dr. Letheby, in his work "On Food": "The richest of all soups is obtained from finely-chopped lean-meat, soaked for an hour or two in an equal weight of water, and then gradually raised to the boiling-point. After simmering for about a quarter of an hour, it should be pressed and strained from the insoluble muscular fibre. In this condition, it contains the whole of the soluble constituents of meat, amounting to about 5 per cent. of the meat used; so that a pint of soup from a pound of meat contains just four-fifths of an ounce of meat extract."

A small quantity of common salt should be added to the soup, tea, or essence. This beef-extract enters the absorbents without much digestive action, and may be taken by all classes of patients.

COLD-BATH IN INFANTILE-DIARRHŒA.

Dr. Wood, in *Medical Times*, says: "Any one who has seen, as I have this summer, the child on whom drugs had ceased to act, and who was seemingly doomed to die, relieved in twelve hours by enforced cold-bathing, every three or four hours, will grant to Dr. Comegys the credit of having introduced one of the most life-saving improvements in modern infantile therapeutics. The sudden, sweet sleep, replacing, after the bath, the fretful nights and days of unrest, is a thing never to be forgotten when once seen, and the arrest of diarrhœa is certainly no less remarkable."

ECZEMA.

Dr. Williams says: "In the various forms of eczema, I find few articles of more value than *sulphuric-acid*. I use it in the strength of 10 to 30 drops of the pure sulphuric-acid to the ounce of oil of sweet-almonds. Mix thoroughly, and apply to the affected part two or three times a day.

"CASE.—A young lady, aged about 25 years. Eczema affecting the dorsal surface of both hands; of four months' standing. Ordered the sulphuric-acid ointment, with tonics and alteratives internally. In three weeks, the hands were entirely healed, not a vestige of the disease remaining."

LOOMIS' TONIC.

R. Sol quin. sulph. (15 grs. in 1 fl.-ounce).....2 fl.-ounces.
Tr. ferri chlor.....4 fl.-drachms.
Sprts. chloroformi.....6 fl.-drachms.
Glycerine, q. s. ad.....4 ounces.

M. Teaspoonful.

SPRAINS.

Foot-bath, hot as can be borne, for half an hour, followed immediately by free rubbing with liniment, composed of soap-liniment, with a small quantity of aqua-ammonia and oil of rosemary, and then a snugly-applied bandage.

FACIAL-NEURALGIA.

If this disease is intermittent, administer valerianate of quinia in the dose of 4½ to 9 grains per day, according to the intensity of the paroxysm. If the neuralgia affects the continued form, employ the following pills: Take of valerianate of zinc, 9 grains; extract of hyoscyamus, 4½ grains; aqueous-extract of opium, 2 2-5 grains; mix and form 12 pills. The dose is three per day—one every three hours. If, after having exhausted this number of pills, the neuralgia is not cured, it will be useless to renew them, as their effect should be prompt.—[*Revue Medicale.*

STRANGULATED-HERNIA.

At a meeting of the Northern Medical Society, of Philadelphia, Dr. J. S. Heilman read the details of a case of strangulated-hernia occurring in his practice, of which the following is an abstract:

James Smith, aged 30, colored, laborer, healthy, with exception of venereal disease, of which he bears evidence on his person. Has oblique inguinal-hernia on left side, of eight years' standing; wears truss. Hernia has "come down" a number of times, but was able to replace it generally without much difficulty. Became strangulated November 29, 1875; saw him two hours afterward, but was unable to reduce, under the influence of chloroform. Made cold applications, and gave morphia in quantities sufficient to relieve the pain. Next morning he saw the case with Dr. Stone. Taxis again failed.

1:30 P. M.—Saw him with Drs. Hall and Stone, and concluded to use an aspirator. As that instrument was not at hand, they used an ordinary hypodermic-needle and common-syringe. Succeeded admirably; and after all the gases and fluids of the tumor had been withdrawn, had no difficulty whatever in reducing. After-treatment consisted of opiates, internally, and locally, a compress, with cold-water applications. On fourth day bowels moved, and on seventh day patient was discharged, well.

He had found reports, in the various medical journals, of thirty-one cases thus treated; they were all successful except those in which cohesions existed. No bad effects were observed from its puncture in any case, nor was the mortality, when the

knife-operation was performed, any greater than it ordinarily is without aspiration. In two cases, patients resumed their usual work twenty-four hours after puncture. Longest time required to reduce after aspiration was ten minutes. The cases include hernias of all varieties, of more or less recent date, and in patients of all ages. Of 774 cases of herniotomy, collected by Mr. Gay, 334, or 43 per cent., died. Of the 31 cases treated by aspiration, only 11 per cent. died. He thought the results of cases thus treated show that the operation should be performed early—immediately after a careful and thorough attempt at reduction by taxis had failed.

TREATMENT OF SENILE-PNEUMONIA.

After narrating some cases of this in the *Lancet*, Dr. J. G. Glover adds: My belief is, that during the pyrexial period the best treatment is a cooling and sustaining one—that of simple salines, with beef-tea, milk, water; and, if there is great heat, or feeling of heat, a little ice may be swallowed from time to time. Over the affected part, I invariably order a large poultice to be kept, and renewed every three or four hours. When the period of crisis comes, no time should be lost in giving such moderate doses of stimulant as seem to help, and not to heat, the patient. The thermometer and the pulse together will guide the judicious practitioner in regard to the dose. I have seen nothing to indicate the good of such quantities of stimulants throughout the disease as Todd used to give; but facts of the kind above given, and the sensations of the patient, leave little room to doubt that a moderate allowance of alcohol, at the time of crisis, or a little before, is to be regarded as a part of the "food convenient" for such cases. The prostration of the patient at this time, at whatever age, is generally very great, and in elderly people, especially, very apt to be fatal.

IODOFORM.

This agent has been found efficacious in anal-fissure, and in vaginismus with extreme hyperæsthesia of the vulva. The parts are to be sprinkled with the powder, and then covered with lint, containing some of it.

ACUTE-CYSTITIS.

Dr. Semple reports four cases of acute-cystitis, out of a large number which he has successfully treated by a method which is not very commonly employed. It consists in the administration by enema into the rectum of from 40 drops to 1 drachm of a solution of sulphate of atropia (1 grain to water 8 ounces), to which is added sufficient carbolic-acid to prevent the formation of organic-entities and the deposit of the atropia. The dose is added to ½ ounce of water, for administration, and given twice in twenty-four hours. It uniformly and immediately arrests the frequent strangury and the painful micturition, gradually checks the mucous and sanguineous discharges, and relieves the supra-pubic pain with the cystic-inflammation. When the urine is alkaline, Mettauer's nitro-muriatic-acid is given to correct it; and when it is so acid as to irritate, the acidity is corrected by antacid-remedies, of which the bicarbonate of potassium, with subnitrate of bismuth, is generally preferred, because of the tonic effect of the bismuth, and its very soothing effect on the mucous surfaces of the urinary organs. When constipation exists, which is frequent, it is relieved, as occasion requires, generally by the German-pulveris-glycyrrhizæ compositus, until the bowels begin to act regularly from the effect of the atropia, which generally soon results.—[*Medical Times.*

CHLORATE OF POTASSIUM IN CHRONIC-GASTRO-INTESTINAL-CATARRH.

S. C. Dumm, M. D., used chlorate of potassium in a case of chronic-gastro-intestinal-catarrh, attended with inflammation of the bile-duct, with excellent results. Ten grains were given every three hours, dissolved in water. After the use of the remedy for day, pain in the stomach ceased, the appetite improved, vomiting stopped, and the patient recovered her health quickly.

MIST.-BUMSTEAD.

R. Bals.-copaiv	½	ounce.
Tr. ferri-mur.	2	drachms.
Tr.-cantharid	2	drachms.
Syr.-acacæ q. s. ad.	4	ounces.

M. Tablespoonful (in gonorrhœa).

[For the Brief.]

AN EXCELLENT EYE-OINTMENT FOR CONJUNCTIVITIS, EITHER GRANULAR OR INFLAMMATORY.

R. Opium, pulverized..... 8 grains.
Camphor, pulverized..... 8 grains.
Hydg.-chloral, mit.....30 grains.
Oil of bitter-almonds..... 1 drachm.
Cacao-butter..... 1 ounce.

Mix fiat unguentum.

S. Rub a very small portion upon the eyelids before going to bed.

L. G. DOANE, M. D.

HYDRASTIS-CANADENSIS IN GLEET.

A contemporary says: We have found the injection of hydrastis-canadensis very efficacious in gleet, the following formula being used:

R. Hydrastis-canadensis..... 2 drachms.
Liquid-morphiæ-mur..... 2 drachms.
Aquæ..... 1½ ounce.
Mucilag.-acaciæ..... 1½ ounce.

TO PREVENT FURUNCLES.

For checking the new formation of boils, Dr. Bulkley, of New York, relies mainly upon the hyposulphite of soda, given internally, 30 grains three or four times daily, largely diluted, and on an empty stomach. Sometimes this fails, when large and repeated doses of quinia will pretty certainly do the work.—[*Canada Lancet.*

CHROMIC-ACID FOR WARTS.

Three or four applications of this acid will cause the disappearance of warts, however hard, large, or dense these may be. The application gives rise to neither pain, suppuration, nor cicatrices, the sole inconvenience being the production of a dark-brown color.—[*L' Union Medicale.*

BIBULOUS-PAPER AS A SUBSTITUE FOR LINT AND SPONGES.

It is well-known that teeth, when being filled by dentists, must be free from moisture, in order that the filling—gold-leaf, or amalgam, or whatever substance be used—adhere to the walls of the cavity, and be there retained after hardening. If moisture be mixed in, the filling soon falls out. Dentists, therefore, cover the excretory-ducts of the salivary-glands, during their operations in the mouth, with a napkin, or lately, with a paper called bibulous or Japanese-paper. Dr. Fox observed how easily this bibulous-paper absorbed moisture, and he applied it experimentally to chancroids, to excoriated nipples, to the os uteri in cervicitis, to the vagina in vaginitis, etc. He also used the same for arresting hemorrhage of the nose and other parts of the body. In coryza, where the use of handkerchiefs become themselves the source of contagion, and infect the person using them, the bibulous-paper answered an excellent purpose, since it can be burned as soon as used. For the cleaning of wounds, it is better than either cotton, lint, sponge, or oakum. During their menstrual periods, women may use it, as is the case in Japan, instead of napkins. It can be medicated, and as such it forms a valuable dressing, even in burns and scalds, and eruptions of an exudative nature.

[For the Brief.]

PHYTOLACCA-DECANDRA.

EDITOR MEDICAL BRIEF: An experience of twenty years has satisfied me that this remedy, when properly prepared and judiciously administered, is one of the most potent agents of our indigenous materia-medica. My method of preparing is as follows: Collect the root, say in November, thoroughly bruise, spread in a room for several days, until the larger portion of its water is evaporated, then to eight ounces add alcohol, seventy-six per cent., one pint; let stand for ten or fifteen days, and make one pint of tincture by adding more alcohol if necessary. This makes a beautiful, straw-colored tincture. Dose from one to fifteen drops.

During the last eighteen months, I have treated a large number of metastatic-mumps with this remedy with splendid success,

not failing in a single instance. In mammary-inflammation, in its incipiency, its stands without a rival in preventing mammary-abscess, etc. In enlargements of the lymphatic-glandular system, its action is prompt and effectual. It has also been used with marked success in diphtheritis, both constitutionally and locally; also in chronic-rheumatism, scrofula, and chronic-cutaneous affections. In the treatment of acute disease, we usually find more or less febrile excitement. We then combine it somewhat after the following formula:

Tincture-aconite (Rad).....	20 drops.
Tincture-phytolacca.....	2 drachms.
Aqua.....	4 ounces.

M. Dose for an adult, one drachm every one or two hours. It may be used locally at the same time if thought necessary.

We advise all who have not used this important remedy to prepare it in the fall somewhat after the above method, and thoroughly test it in practice, and we doubt not but it will afterward occupy an important position in the list of active and reliable remedies, in the daily rounds of the busy practitioner.

T. J. Fentress, M. D.

ORCHITIS.

This malady is effectually cured by the following: 1. Keep constantly applied upon the affected organ (the patient preserving a state of rest), lotions of mixture of one part of tincture of arnica with six parts of water; rub along the track of the spermatic-cord, two or three times a day, an embrocation made of one-third or one-half part tincture of arnica with one part of some oily liniment. 2. Administer internally, seven drops of the tincture of arnica, mixed, if fever be present, with two and a half drops of Fleming's tincture of aconite and acetate of ammonia.—[*M. Knaggs.*

MIST.-DIARRHŒA-RUSCHENBERGER.

R. Tinct.-opii.....
Tinct.-camph.....
Tinct.-capsici..... } of each equal parts.
Tinct.-menth.-pip.....
Tinct.-rhei-arom.....

Mix. Thirty to forty drops in water.

[For the Brief.]

SOLANUM-NIGRUM (BLACK-NIGHTSHADE).

Solanum-nigrum belongs to the natural order Solanaceas (Nightshade family); it has a spreading, angular, nearly smooth stem, with ovate, wavy-toothed or sinuated-leaves, and perforated, the edges, erased as if gnawed by insects. The flowers are white, small, with yellow anthers, latral-umbels, drooping, five parted, on bractless-pedicles. The fruit is a blackberry; when ripe, globose, and of a sweet taste. The flowers begin to appear in June, and continue to October. There are generally green and ripe-berries and flowers on the plant at the same time.

The odor of the whole plant is narcoctic, resembling somewhat the tomato. It grows near walls, fences, preferring shady and protected localities. It is sometimes mistaken for belladonna; but it may be distinguished from belladonna by the following peculiarities—that is: The stock of belladonna is stout and strong, purple-colored, from three to five feet high, hairy; leaves of equal size, pointed, oval, in pairs, on short foot-stalks; flowers of a dark or brownish purple-color, large and pendant, bell-shaped, furrowed, cut in five segments; the berries are black, and ripen in September, all at or near the same time. Not so with solanum-nigrum.

Medical uses: solanum-nigrum has not been much used, but is capable of a wide range of action when its properties are fully understood and developed. Dr. Eberle used it in cases of old ulcers, and says that it is too much neglected. He gave the powdered leaves in doses of two grains, night and morning, and found it to act very favorably in such conditions of the blood connected with such a condition of the skin. It affects the brain and nervous system similar to belladonna.

It has very marked effect upon those diseases caused by, or connected with, congestion of the cerebral and cerebro-spinal systems. In cerebro-spinal meningitis, in the forming stage, it acts promptly. In this condition, it so acts upon the capillary circulation as to overcome the turgescence or congestion (this is done doubtless by contracting the relaxed coats of the capillary veins), which always attends this disease. In cases of paralysis, produced by a similar condition of the capillary circulation, solanum-nigrum will often produce immediate amendment, if used in time. In ordinary headache from repletion,

or from the relaxing effects of heat, or an overloaded stomach, it will prove a very prompt remedy. In angina-pectoris, alternated with cactus-grandiflora, it will give immediate relief; no remedy has proved so successful in this very painful affection as the above remedies alternated. In many cases of ophthalmia, where there is a state of turgescence of the sclerotica (stasis o the circulation), it acts admirably. In such conditions, I use the remedy both locally and internally, and I have often witnessed its magic effects, by dropping a few drops of the fluid-extract, or saturated-tincture, diluted with water, three or four parts, into the eye, three or four times a day. It is also a favorite remedy with me in amaurosis, which is another affection of the eye, caused by the want of power in the venous capillaries of the part. It is a very positive remedy in spasms of children when teething, or from intestinal irritation. In puerperal convulsions, it is also worthy of a trial, and as a prophylactic, it will often ward them off, if given when the first premonitory symptoms appear. In scarlet-fever, it acts more satisfactorily than belladonna. In chorea, it doubtless will act well. It is worthy of a trial in cases of insanity from determination to the brain, or from congestion of that organ. In typhormania, in typhoid-fever, it will prove a valuable remedy. When its precise effects are understood, it will prove a valuable remedy in many diseased conditions, connected with, or caused by, the torpid state of the capillaries in the various parts of the organization. This state of the nervous circulation, that is, the enfeebled circulation of the capillaries, is the result of the determination upon the cerebro-spinal system, and hence, solanum, like belladonna, having a direct action on that part of the nerve-centers, will afford relief in many diseases that are very rebellious to treatment. I use the saturated-tincture of the plant, in doses of one or two drops, repeated once every three or four hours.

Extract from "Materia-Medica," by Dr. I. G. M. Goss, Marietta, Ga. (to be published by subscription).

SPASMODIC-ASTHMA.

Subcutaneous injection of morphia. Dr. Burns says an attack of spasmodic-asthma can generally be relieved by a dose of morphia, administered hypodermically.

COLD-WATER TREATMENT OF FEVER.

The application of cold water in fever cases seems to be more and more used. The matter itself is very simple. If a patient at 40° C. (104 F.) is placed in a bath at a lower temperature, he must quickly part with heat. In fever, the natural regulation of heat which keeps our body at an almost equal temperature is insufficient. The cool-bath makes up for this. If we measure the temperature after the bath, we shall find it lower than before. The blood that surrounds the cells of our nerve-centers is less hot. The patient, therefore, feels stronger and quieter. Cold baths (15-20° C.=60-68 F.) have the clearest effect. Extensive experience has taught that their action is most positive when they are short and often repeated. Very weak patients must begin with 35° (97 F.), and then the warmth must be lowered to 20° (68 F.), by carefully and gradually adding cold water. In the meantime, the body should be gently rubbed.

GLYCERINE AS A THERAPEUTIC AGENT.

Dr. C. H. Lidd states that children raised by hand can be kept comparatively free from many of the ills to which they are subject, if from four to six drachms daily of glycerine be substituted for sugar. The exosmotic property of glycerine surpasses that of any agent at our command, and it has the property of withdrawing the watery elements of any tissue to which it is continuously applied. Marion Sims showed that a ball of lint, saturated with glycerine, will arrest the secretion of a suppurating surface; and Furst and Eberhurd state they have successfully used a glycerine-plug in fluor-albus.—[*Edinburgh Med. Jour.*

PATHOGNOMONIC SYMPTOM OF CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

Dr. Hayden, of Dublin, states that he never saw a case of cerebro-spinal meningitis unattended by pains in the calves of the legs, and he should make a presumptive diagnosis from the presence of that symptom alone.

FAT-MEAT AS A LOCAL APPLICATION IN DIPHTHERIA.

Dr. Ennett says: "My aunt, who was in Hartford two years ago, when the disease was raging so terrifically there, being at my house this summer, when it was killing whole families in Wilmington, and was also terribly fatal in the surrounding country, asked me to try the Hartford Doctors' treatment, which was the same as ours, with the exception of external applications of 'fat-meat.' I could not, nor cannot, see the virtue, but promised to try it; I used it, and my patient got well. I still did not look upon it as affecting the disease at all. I used it again and again, and the patients all got well. I tried to study out some physiological action, but could not. I wrote to an eminent physician in Hartford, and he writes me: 'We regard it as an old woman's remedy; but the doctors all use it, and since its use the mortality has not been more than one-third. What it is, and why it is, I don't know; but might it not have some antidotal action on the poison?'"

THE TREATMENT OF SUN-STROKE.

Dr. Bliss writes as follows: "I wish to call the attention of the profession, through your columns, to a method of treating sun-stroke which I have found very successful. Without entering into any discussion of the etiology of the disease, or the pathological conditions present during an attack, I will only say that as a condition of success to any treatment, it must be applied before the patient's temperature has reached a point that is incompatible with the continuance of life—viz., 108 or 109 degs. F. When called to a case of sun-stroke, we usually find the patient nearly, if not quite, unconscious, with stertorous breathing, and generally complete muscular relaxation. In this condition, he should be taken into the open air, his outer clothing removed, and his head slightly elevated. Cold water (not ice-water) should then be poured freely over all parts of his person until his temperature is reduced to the normal standard. (Where a bath-tub is at hand it is to be preferred.) The application of ice to the head is of no benefit, the free use of water, at its ordinary temperature, accomplishing much more efficiently the general abstraction of heat from the patient's body. When

consciousness is restored, which generally occurs in a very short time, the patient should be dried with moderate friction, removed to bed, and covered with only a sheet or very light blanket. A light liquid-diet, with, if necessary, a mild saline aperient, will usually complete the cure in a few days. The use of stimulants is seldom necessary. Freely douching with cold water is as applicable to the lower animals, when suffering from sun-stroke, as to man. One of our largest street-railroad companies has for many years past lost great numbers of horses every summer from this cause. This year, by my advice, the Superintendent has adopted the plan of promptly douching, with a stream from the hydrant, every horse affected. So far, the success has been complete, but one horse having died out of a great many attacked, and that one not having been subjected to the treatment. The main point in all cases is to apply the water promptly and freely."—[*Medical Record.*

PULVIS PIL:HYDRARGYRI.

Take of mercury.....1 ounce.
Sugar of milk.....2 ounces.

Triturate the mixture thoroughly until the powder will pass through a fine sieve, or fine bolting cloth. Prepared in this manner, powdered blue-mass is a light grayish powder, and incapable of attracting moisture; and so thoroughly is the minute state of division, that globules of mercury cannot be seen with the aid of a lens. This preparation is also well suited for conversion into the pillular form.

GLYCERINE IN ASTHMA.

Glycerine and whisky, in doses of a teaspoonful or more of each, has been prescribed by Boston physicians in asthmatic cases. It was said to have proved efficient both in preventing and in relieving the attacks; and we have since had other testimony to its value in the milder forms of this distressing complaint. We do not know that it has been tested in very severe cases.—[*Exchange.*

WARM-WATER PRESSURE IN STRICTURE.

Dr. Dunlap, in *Ohio Medical and Surgical Journal*, says: Some time ago, before I had an aspirator, I was left in charge of a patient, who was suffering with retention of urine, from stricture of the urethra. After repeated trials and failure to introduce the catheter, and the failure of local applications, warm and cold-baths, I telegraphed for an aspirator. This was about six o'clock in the morning, and ten o'clock was as soon as I could get it. The patient was suffering agonies, and had been since ten o'clock the night before. The idea struck me that if I could get as much pressure in front of the stricture as there was behind it, that it must stretch or open so as to allow the passage of a catheter. So with this effect in view, I got an eight-ounce-syringe, a gum-catheter, and a foot and a half of rubber-tubing. I removed the wire from the catheter, filled the syringe with lukewarm-water, and slipped the point into the other end of the tubing. I now filled the tubing and catheter with the warm water, and introduced the catheter into the urethra, up to the stricture, and then pulled it back half an inch. I then clasped the penis with my left hand, so as to compress it on the catheter, and prevent the water from escaping. I then had my assistant (an old colored man) force in the water. I kept this pressure up for half a minute, and then relaxed my hold with left hand, and with my right I pushed slightly on the catheter, and found it passed into the bladder without the slightest resistance. I then removed the tubing from the catheter, and emptied the bladder. I have seen this patient since, and he told me he had to tell a physician out West of this plan before he was able to introduce the catheter. Of course, with this plan of using the catheter, care must be taken not to use force enough to rupture the urethra.

REST, FOOD AND SLEEP.

Sufficient sleep, rest and food are necessary to health and to prosperity in all the affairs of life A human body, weakened and irritated by want of sleep and sufficient food, is just as unfit for efficient labor as a crippled horse is for a race-course. If we always treated ourselves with the same care that self-interest inspires in the care and treatment of our domestic animals, we should escape many ills, as they do.

THE EFFECT OF MEDICINE ON THE TEETH.

Dr. Hodson calls attention, in the *New York Medical Record*, to the fact that, in any illness involving a feverish condition, the fluids of the mouth are constantly as intensely acid, as respects the teeth, as in any medicine administered by the physician; and, moreover, from the high temperature of the buccal-cavity at such times, the power of the acids for evil is greatly augmented. Further: a direct consequence of these conditions is the especially rapid fermentation and decomposition of all food lodged between and around the teeth, and the consequent elimination of other deleterious acids, "all forming a mighty power, under which it is not surprising that tooth-structure should melt away like dew before the sun. It is, indeed, a very surprising thing that any tooth should live to tell the tale."

Dr. Hodson asks, therefore, a little attention to this matter, and recommends rinsing the mouth with liquor-calcis, diluted according to the sensitiveness of the mucous-membrane, and flavored with a few drops of winter-green or peppermint to make it agreeable; or to rub creta-prepa, freely about and between the teeth, and allow it to remain during the night; or if the patient be able to use the tooth-brush, to add a small quantity of sodæ-bicarb. to the usual tooth-powder (for this purpose only, and not for general use); or, in short, the employment of any of the manifold methods of neutralizing the acid-condition which may be most accessible at the time.

ACTION OF CHLORAL ON THE RECTUM.

It would appear that chloral is one of those agents which act with nearly as much energy when introduced in the rectum as when taken into the stomach. In a case of puerperal-convulsions, to which we had been called in consultation, a solution of bromide of potassium, with hydrate of chloral, which could not be swallowed by the patient, was injected in the rectum, with the effect of allaying spasm promptly and decidedly. It was repeated in the same case with excellent results. Since that time, other trials of chloral, as an emeta, have confirmed its value in this mode of administration. The quantity of 30 grains, in 2 or 3 ounces of water, will generally be sufficient for a single injection.—[*Pacific Medical Journal.*

RULES IN ADMINISTERING ARSENIC.

In the *Medical Press and Circular*, Dr. H. Griffith gives the following rules for the administration of arsenic:

1. It should never be given where there is a feverish state of the system; a quick pulse and a hot skin contra-indicate its employment.

2. It should be given shortly after meals; never on an empty stomach.

3. It should not be given in the solid form, nor should it be given in increasing doses. As a rule, 5 minims of Fowler's solution should be the maximum dose for an adult.

4. The dose should be diminished, or the administration altogether ceased, on the occurrence of pain in the epigastrium, nausea, or irritation of the eyelids.

CHLORIDE OF AMMONIUM.

Although it seems difficult to say in what class of cases precisely chloride of ammonium is likely to prove of use, it is well worth a trial in obstinate cases, which have resisted other treatment. Dr. Young relates a case of obstinate neuralgia of the ovary, in which 15 grains of the chloride was given every two hours, till three doses were taken. This, along with a pessary, containing bromide and belladonna, gave complete relief at the period of greatest intensity of pain. The next access of pain was successfully treated in the same manner. This time the cure remained permanent.

ABSORPTIVE POWER OF MILK.

Attention has been called in the daily papers to a practice, prevalent in some parts of the country, which appears to illustrate the power possessed by milk of absorbing atmospheric impurities. It is that of placing a saucer of new milk in a larder, to preserve meat or game from taint. It is said that not only does it answer that purpose, but that the milk, after a few hours, become so bad that no animal will touch it.—[*London Lancet.*

CALOMEL.

Dr. Duckworth, in *Practitioner*, says: "I am satisfied that in many minor disorders of children, nothing can take the place of calomel as a purgative, and much time is often lost by beginning with drugs that are accounted more simple. The only medicine that appears to me to approach calomel in value is castor-oil; but this is constantly a source of trouble from its disgusting character. I find that calomel is distinctly preferable to gray-powder as a purgative, just as, for other purposes, strychnia is to milder preparations of nux-vomica. Its action is smarter, and more decided. It has also the great merit of being tasteless, and of exciting no nausea, and its bulk is small.

"In strumous-children, or in healthy ones who suffer occasionally from gastric-catarrh, with tenderness, and some torpidity of the liver, no medicine is comparable to a purgative containing calomel. After its action, a copious bilious stool or two are passed, the tongue is observed to become cleaner, the feverishness pertaining to this state subsides, and the child becomes brighter, and has restored appetite. A so-called simpler treatment with soda and citrate of potash will often fail to yield these results, and so, too, will repeated doses of rhubarb and senna."

ANGINA-PECTORIS.

Prof. See says this affection is not a neurosis, but an ischæmia, combined with pain. The treatment should, therefore, be two-fold. As the pain which, by its violence, can stop the breathing, can kill the patient in a few minutes, it is to that we must first address ourselves when called during an attack. To this end, morphia hypodermically is the best, and the administration of it in this way should be continued, at least twice in the twenty-four hours, unless the attack has completely disappeared. The morphia not only acts by suppressing the pain, but it assists the circulation also, and thus directly addresses itself to the ischæmia, which stops the heart from receiving sufficient blood, causing it to lessen. Together with morphia-injections, enemata of chloral should be given to the extent of two or three grammes. [*Paris Medical.*

[For the Brief.]

MISCARRIAGES.

It almost necessarily happens that more or less prolapsus of the uterus takes place in the early months of pregnancy, and when this is accompanied with retroversion, as not unfrequently happens, a miscarriage necessarily takes place about, or soon after, the fourth month. The developing uterus, not rising into the abdominal cavity, cannot become much enlarged before it finds itself embraced by the walls of the pelvis, and must throw off its contents.

I saw Mrs. R., for the first time, when she was passing through her sixth miscarriage, occasioned by prolapsus and retroversion. She was exceedingly anxious to have a living child. In her next pregnancy, in accordance with my advice, she consented to wear a double-lever-pessary for four months. This was effectual, and she now rejoices in the possession of a son. This is no isolated case, coming under my own observation, but is selected merely as an example. I. F. Bird, M. D.

Philadelphia, Aug. 15, 1876.

Editor of Medical Brief—*Sir:* An uncommon case has occurred lately in my practice, and I mention it because I have neither heard nor read of anything of the kind; but once saw a wood-cut in an old obstetrical work of the same thing of which I am about to relate:

Mrs. ——, about forty years of age, was confined (primipara), and Dr. O'Neil, of this city, was attending her. The labor was tedious; and after consultation instrumental delivery was resorted to. The presentation was vertex; forceps were applied, and after great traction, the infant was delivered; its vitality being feeble, the result of impaction; but it is now living. The point of the case is that the umbilical-cord was found to be in a perfect knot. The only theory we could assign for such a cause, is, that the fœtus floating around in the liquor-amnii had caused a loup to be made in the cord through which the fœtus made a dive, and presented, as above described, where it remained till delivered. J. F. Dunphy, M. D.

New York, August 19, 1876.

DRUNKEN-HEADACHE.

Remove alcohol from intestinal canal by giving rhubarb and calcined-magnesia, of each ½ drachm; *then* give the following:

R. Spts.-ammon.-aromat.....2 drachms.
Tinct.-camphor.....1½ drachm.
Tinct.-hysocyani.....2½ drachms.
Spts.-lav.-comp. g. s. ad.....2 ounces.

Mix. Dose, 1 drachm every hour until headache is relieved; *then* give quinine, 3 grains, and capsicum, 2 grains, *before* each meal, for several days. If patient cannot sleep, give—

R. Sodii-bromid..... ½ ounce.
Chloral-hydrate.....2½ drachms.
Syr.-aur.-cort..... ½ ounce.
Aquæ.....3½ ounces.

Mix. Dose, ⅛ ounce, at night; repeat in 2 hours, if necessary to produce sleep.—[Dr. Smith, in *Medical Record.*

BROMOHYDRIC-ACID.

Dr. Fothergill, in *British Medical Journal*, says: "Bromohydric-acid certainly does prevent the occurrence of headache, after each dose of quinine, in those who had to desist from taking quinine for that reason. It is, perhaps, not invariably successful, but its power is very marked. It also prevents the fullness felt in the head by some persons, especially those laboring under cerebral-anæmia, after doses of iron. It is also useful after nervous conditions, and, with quinine, is excellent in those cases when there is too much nervous exhaustion from excessive indulgence in tea or in alcohol—this having been tried in a case of nervous excitability and sleeplessness where there had been much resort to chloral-hydrate.

"In forms of excited action of the heart, connected with general nervous excitability or nervous exhaustion, hydrobromic-acid is most useful; given with quinine (of which it is a capital solvent) and digitalis, it gives better results than bromide of potassium and digitalis. * * In all hysterical conditions, connected with ovarian excitement, it seems to have all the properties of bromide of potassium. It is equally useful in the vomiting of pregnancy; and seems to exercise quite as powerful an influence over acts of reflex origin as does the bromide. It is especially adapted for the relief of menorrhagia,

associated with sexual excitement, and is even more effective here than the bromides themselves. It is also of use in whooping-cough, and combines conveniently with quinine, forming an effective measure in this troublesome affection; with spirit of chloroform and syrup of squill, it forms a most agreeable cough-mixture of no mean potency. It is also of use in case of cough of reflex origin. When there is gastric irritability, it is the most useful of all acids, possessing the usual properties of acids generally and of the bromine as well.

"The formula is as follows, for the production of the acid in quantities of two quarts: dissolve 10 ounces, 6 drachms and 28 grains of bromide of potassium in four pints of water; then add 13 ounces, 1 drachm and 38 grains of tartaric-acid. The bitartrate of potash is precipitated and the hydrobromic-acid remains in a clear, bright, almost colorless fluid, possessing acid taste and the ordinary acid properties of bromide of potassium. The dose of acid, prepared as above, is 1 drachm as a full dose. Half a drachm is the dose I ordinarily employ. Bromohydric-acid has the further advantage of not producing the troublesome eruption so often the result of doses of the bromide of potassium, at least so far as my experience has yet extended."

BI-CARBONATE OF SODA IN SUPPRESSION OF URINE.

Mark Lemon, M. B., has used bi-carbonate of soda in half-teaspoonful-doses thrice daily with excellent effect in renal-cases attended with suppression of urine. In connection with warm-bathing, he has found nothing so useful as it in the class of cases mentioned.

[For the Brief.]

UTERINE-HEMORRHAGE.

R. Ergotin.....10 grains.
Gallic-acid..... 1 drachm.

Mix. Dose. 15 grains, repeated as indicated.

L. H. WASHINGTON, M. D.

POOR SOAP, made from the uncleansed grease of unhealthy animals, is charged with being the cause of many diseases.

[For the Brief.]

A CASE OF ENCYSTED-UMBILICAL-CORD.

BY LUIGI G. DOANE, M. D., Department Public Charities and Correction.

The obstetric literature of the present day gives us very little information in reference to the complication of encysted-umbilical-cord as a result of pregnancy. Research among the German literature has proved equally as unsatisfactory. For this reason, any reports of this deformity are of interest to the profession, and more so to the specialist.

Drawn from life by H. P. Wolcott.

During the winter of 1874, I was called to attend Mrs. A. H., a stout, well-formed American woman, with well-formed pelvis and good constitution. She stated that three months previous she had received a severe fall, while drawing water from a hydrant. Examination of the lungs, heart, kidneys and uterus, proved them to be in a healthy state, and, after a somewhat tedious labor of sixteen hours, I delivered her of a female infant, quite normal in every respect, except the deformity of the umbilical-cord.

This cord resembled a bladder in appearance, was movable upon itself, and upon inspection, appeared like a bag full of air, attached to the abdomen of the child. Upon opening, air and a small quantity of serum escaped; by the use of the probe, the convolutions of the intestines could be felt. The cord seemed to have involved the peritoneum, which presented itself with its anterior surface, and had the peculiar shiny or glistening appearance of that membrane. Dr. Gillette, physician of Charity Hospital, New York, suggested litigating the cord further down near the abdomen, but before the consent of the parents could be obtained, the child took an obstinate fit of vomiting, and died.

Several points in this case warn us to be careful to counsel perfect rest, and avoidance of work during the later stages of labor, as this over-worked condition of the mother undoubtedly caused, or helped to cause, the abnormality of the child.

After ten days, Mrs. H. recovered her strength; and is to-day in an excellent condition, having since then given birth to a natural male-child.

CHOICE OF SEDATIVES FOR THE AGED.

Dr. Stokes says: "If we think fit to employ opium as an anodyne or hypnotic with those who have attained to or are on the high road to second childhood, it is judicious to combine chloral and spirit of chloroform with it; the opium being prescribed in excess when pain, the chloral when restlessness, and the spirit of chloroform when cramp predominates; and the quantities of the several ingredients need not be large, as each of them intensifies the effect of the others. The addition of from ten to twenty minims of the tincture of Indian hemp, a very invigorating soporific, to such a mixture as the above is most serviceable in dealing with a heart enfeebled by advanced age or exhausting illness; and in thus prescribing it I have invariably met with an exemption from the distressing symptoms which sometimes result from the oppressive action of opiates on the respiratory system."—[*Guy's Hospital Reports.*

[For the Brief.]

IN SYPHILITIC SORE-THROAT, WITH OR WITHOUT ULCERATION.

R. Cyanide of mercury..... ¼ grain.
Aqua-pura..... 6 ounces.

Use as a gargle.

L. G. DOANE, M. D.

DYSENTERY.

R. Aromatic-syr. phei et potass.....2 ounces.
Fluid-extract-hammamelis .....2 ounces.

Mix. Teaspoonful every two or three hours.

L. H. WASHINGTON, M. D.

POISON-OAK ERUPTION.

Dr. Bernard says, in the Louisville *Medical News:* "I have just read, in your journal, an article by Prof. L. P. Yandell, Jr., on "Poison-Oak." I think I can still add one to the list of reliable remedies for the torment inflicted by that infernal thing; to-wit: fluid-extract of gelsem, sempervirens, applied by simply brushing it over the affected part with a feather.

"Some weeks ago I had to prescribe for a boy who had got the poison, of all places in the world, all over the genital organs. The burning sensation invariably came on about sunset, and tormented the patient all night long, subsiding always at daylight. (Here was a good hint to try quinine, but I failed to use it.) After trying about a dozen of so-styled 'infallibles,' I heard of the gelseminum, and concluded to try it; for I was just then 'at the end of my row,' and badly bothered to find a remedy. The first application gave complete relief; and the patient slept soundly all night. After that the gelseminum was applied three more times, and that ended the job; and a most devilish troublesome job it was until the gelseminum let me out of the scrape.

"Some thirty years ago I saw sulphate of copper (2 grains to one ounce of water) used in a great number of cases, and with general success; but lately, I have known it to fail several times. Should I ever be called upon to treat another case, I would certainly try quinine at the start. The gelseminum treatment may be already known to many or all readers of the *News;* but if not, they are abundantly welcome to the hint I do not propose to take out a patent for it just at present.

"SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS, July 29, 1876."

POISONING BY CARBOLIC-ACID.

As this acid is now so extensively used, it may be of some importance to make known the antidotes which have been proposed. M. Ferrand advises the following:

White-sugar	15 parts.
Water	40 parts.
Quicklime	5 parts.

Forming a saccharate of lime.—[*Lancet.*

CAPACITY FOR SLEEP AS A PROGNOSTIC IN OPERATIONS.

Sir James Paget (Clinical Lectures on the Various Risks of Operations) says: "The healthiest nervous system, in so far as it may be judged of by the mind, is that in which a patient faces an operation quietly, and with a courage which is not too demonstrative. Cases are told, and some of them probably are true, and I have seen confirmations of them, which would make it very probable that an abiding gloom, or fear of death, or a foretelling of death, or an utter indifference to the result of the operation, are very bad states. But, after all, your estimate of the risks on any such grounds as these must be a vague one. A better sign is the capacity for sleep. If a patient can always sleep long at a spin, that is a good patient. In one of the most perilous operations for hernia with which I have had to do, a case in which the hernia had been reduced *en bloc*, and in which its return was effected with considerable force and disturbance of parts, I believe the patient owed his recovery more to his capacity for sleep than to anything else. He was a young bargeman, dull-witted, and over-worked, and in his ordinary life, sleeping whenever he was neither working nor feeding. Shortly after the operation, he went to sleep, and he slept sixteen hours out of the first twenty-four, and in a scarcely less proportion of his time for two or three days afterward; and he recovered."

ENLARGED-SPLEEN.

Dr. Guild says muriate of ammonia, as recommended by Eberle, is the greatest desideratum in enlarged-spleen. As a resolvent, it has proved entirely efficacious. It will give speedy relief *only* when given in purgative doses of thirty or forty grains; make a saturated solution, and give a tablespoonful every two hours.

POISONING BY BELLADONNA, AND CURE.

Dr. H. L. Horton reports the case of a boy, two and a half years old, who swallowed 45 grains of belladonna, and who was cured of the effects by four teaspoonfuls of laudanum.

ON THE USE OF HYDRATE OF CHLORAL TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF THE MALARIAL-CHILL.

BY BENJAMIN LEE, M. D., OF PHILADELPHIA.

On the afternoon of October 2d, 1875, I was called to see a young Swiss lady, suffering from high fever, with delirium and intense headache. As I was already attending two cases of herpes-gutteralis in the same family, I concluded that she had caught the prevailing epidemic, and although she would confess to no sore throat, put her on full doses of chlorate of potash, dissolved in water acidulated with hydrochloric-acid. The following morning, she was free from fever, but not from headache; was excessively weak; had slept during the night, but had perspired considerably. The delirium had passed off; but she had no recollection of anything that she had said during its continuance. I now learned that before the fever came on, on the day previous, she had suddenly, while at the piano, been seized with a severe chill, which had continued for an hour. Coupling this with the fact that she had the summer previous paid a visit of some weeks' duration to friends in the State of Ohio, in a confessedly malarious region, I saw reason to change my diagnosis. I accordingly prescribed a mild saline-cathartic, with the view of depurating by the intestinal-mucous surface; and next morning, ten grains of quinine in solution, at 6 A. M., and fifteen more at 10 A. M. The chill, however, came on with greater violence than the first; as described to me, it must have been almost pernicious in its character. When I saw her late in the afternoon, she was again delirious; the heat of skin was excessive; the pulse could, with difficulty, be counted, and she complained piteously of her head. Remembering the locality from which she acquired the poison, and the occasionally fatal nature of the third congestive-chill, I now felt seriously concerned, and determined, at all hazards, to prevent a recurrence.

In conversation with a highly intelligent clergyman, who had spent many years in Texas, he alluded to the plan adopted by physicians there, in such cases, of giving a full dose of opium in anticipation of the chill, and causing the patient to sleep through the time in which it should occur. I at once determined to give the method a trial, substituting chloral for opium, as being more essentially anti-spasmodic in its action. Giving

quinine as before, about fifteen minutes before the time at which symptoms had begun to declare themselves as previously, I caused her room to be darkened, and all unnecessary noises about the house to be stopped; administered twenty grains of chloral-hydrate, dissolved in camphor-water, and left her. In ten minutes, I returned to her room, with the intention of repeating the dose if there were any signs of excitement about her. She was already, however, sleeping quietly, with pulse and skin natural. I visited her at intervals of about an hour, always to find her in the same placid sleep, from which she awoke, much refreshed, about 4 P. M.; the chloral having been administered soon after 10 A. M. There was no return of the chills for that reason. I, of course, took precaution to continue the anti-spasmodic and depurative treatment for a considerable period.

Seven months later, on the 10th day of May, of the present year, she was again seized with a severe chill. Profiting by my experience on the former occasion, I now directed that she should be closely watched on the day of the recurrence, the quinine administered as before, and at the first indication of the invasion (which previously had not been awaited), the usual dose of chloral administered. The person to whom I intrusted the case had been with the patient in all previous attacks, and was an intelligent and trustworthy observer. At eleven o'clock, she noticed a slight blueness of the nails and coolness of the finger-tips, and accordingly at once gave the dose. The result was as satisfactory as before. There has, as yet, been no return of the intermittent, although the subsequent treatment was continued but a short time.—[*Medical and Surgical Report.*

SICK-HEADACHE.

Of this variety there are two forms, the neuralgic and dyspeptic. In the neuralgic, the pain precedes nausea; in the dyspeptic variety, follows it. Emetics and laxatives do good in the dyspeptic variety only. For such headache, and any headache not malarial—

R. Guaranæ-pulv..... 1½ drachm.
Div. in chart 6.

S. A powder every fifteen minutes, until relieved, or all are taken. Given in sweetened-water.

ERGOT AND BROMIDE-AMMONIA IN CONVULSIONS FOLLOWING CHOLERA-INFANTUM.

Dr. Gilbert says, in the *Louisville Medical News:* On the 13th of July, I was called, in consultation with my friend Dr. Mayfield, to see a child, three months old, in tetanic-convulsions. The child had been suffering with cholera-infantum for about twelve hours previous, for which a mixture of laudanum and mint-water had been given. Although the opiate had arrested the vomiting and purging, it had not produced sleep, but, on the contrary, the convulsions were increasing in violence. We immediately ordered a hot-bath, which continued fifteen minutes, the water being raised to a temperature of 108°. This produced no relaxation; indeed, the symptoms grew worse. We gave up the bathing, and ordered two-drop doses of the fluid-ext.-ergot, repeated every hour. Three or four doses had been given, and as many hours elapsed, and still no improvement; there was one continued convulsion, except during a little temporary relief afforded by inhalation of chloroform.

At this time—now six hours since the convulsions began—we ordered the following prescription:

R. Ammoniæ-bromid ..... 24 grains.
Syrup-tolu ..... ½ ounce.
Aquæ-puræ ..... ½ ounce.

M. S. A teaspoonful every hour, with two drops of ext.-ergot added to each dose. In twenty minutes after the first dose, the convulsions began to abate; and at the end of three hours, the child slept quietly, after which it recovered rapidly.

GELSEMINUM IN NEURALGIA.

Dr. Jurasz, of Heidelberg, has used the tincture in five cases of neuralgia. In the first case, five drops, three times a day (facial-neuralgia); cured in three days. Second case of the same kind as the first, four drops, three times a day; cured in six days. Third case, supra-orbital-neuralgia, ten drops, three times a day; cured in four days. Fourth case, neuralgia of the fifth pair, on both sides, five drops every day; cured in two days. Fifth case, severe sciatica, eight drops, three times a day; almost cured in fifteen days, and complete cure was then obtained by the continuous current and warm-baths.

URÆMIC-HEADACHE.

Make the kidneys act if you can; apply dry cups over them, and give internally the following:

R. Potass.-acetat..... 6 drachms.
Infus. digitalis..... 6 ounces.

M. Sig. half ounce every three hours.

The infusion should be made from fresh English leaves. Give this until the kidneys act freely, if you can make them do it within twenty-four hours. You cannot always rely on this, however. If the kidneys do not act freely, and the headache is not relieved within twenty-four hours, give a saline-cathartic. A treatment almost domestic, and often very effectual, is to put an ounce of cream-tartar into a quart of water, and have the patient drink this in eight or ten hours. It acts both as a diuretic and cathartic.—[*Dr. Smith in Medical Record.*

HYDRATE OF CHLORAL IN PITYRIASIS.

Dr. Martmean, in the *Medical and Surgical Reporter*, says that a solution of 40 grains of chloral to an ounce of water, applied to the scalp each morning, by means of a sponge, using slight friction, and allowing it to dry, is very efficacious in pityriasis. If the disease is recent, and the lotion is uninterruptedly used for a month, he predicts a certain cure. In the chronic and more obstinate cases, he recommends the continuance of the application of the solution until the disease disappears, as its daily use produces no inconvenience, whilst it relieves the itching.

SOLUTIONS OF MORPHIA FOR HYPODERMIC USE.

It is stated by Prof. Luton, of Reims, that in hypodermic injections of morphia, the best menstrum is distilled aqua-laurocerasi, which forms, with the salts of morphia, a perfectly limpid-solution, which remains good indefinitely. The dissolving-power of this vehicle appears to be superior to that of ordinary distilled-water.

A SENSIBLE PRECAUTION.

When lunar-caustic is used in the oral-cavity, and toward the tonsils and larynx, fears may be entertained that the stick may break, and cause dangerous symptoms. To make such an unpleasant accident impossible, Dr. Mettenkeimer places the caustic in a little bag of gauze, through the meshes of which the former acts completely, the escape of the stick being effectually prevented. Of course, the gauze should be changed at each cauterization, as the meshes are liable to get obstructed by moisture, and even to be destroyed by the caustic.—[*Lancet.*

ANTIDOTE FOR STRYCHNIA.

The East Indian physicians recommend nicotia as the surest antidote, which is given in exceedingly small quantities, in sherry, several times a day. In default of nicotia, decoction of tobacco leaves (one-half ounce to a pint) is given.

EXTRACTION OF FOREIGN BODIES FROM THE EAR.

Mr. George P. Field refers to the case of a little girl, æt. 6, who presented herself with a black glass-bead, the size of a large pea, in her left ear. Previously, however, several attempts had been made to extract the bead; but, unfortunately, the mischief was only increased, the bead having been pushed in still deeper, and firmly imbedded, the result of subsequent inflammation. The ear was syringed gently; and any further attempt at removal was postponed, as there was a good deal of inflammation, for a few days. She was, however, laid up with chicken-pox for two months; and when she came again to the hospital all inflammatory signs had disappeared; but the bead could easily be distinguished with the speculum, deeply seated and firmly fixed. She was put under chloroform, and an attempt made to remove it by means of glue, attached to the end of a piece of stick. This failed altogether. She was, therefore, placed on her side, with the affected ear downwards, and the syringe used from below; and, after a little trouble, the bead dropped out. This is a case that one is likely to meet with almost every day. A great deal more harm than good is often

done by the use of instruments; but by the following method no injury can be caused: place the patient under chloroform, with the ear affected downwards, and syringe from below; pull the aurical backwards and upwards (by this means the external auditory-meatus is made into a single tube), and apply the nozzle of the syringe to the upper wall of the passage; the water is then gently forced behind the obstruction; the foreign body is loosened, and its own weight will cause it to fall out of the ear.—[*The British Medical Journal.*

TAPE-WORM.

At a meeting of the Mobile Medical Society, Dr. F. A. Ross presented a specimen of tape-worm, which had been passed by one of his patients—a middle-aged gentleman. The doctor, convinced of the presence of the worm in intestinal-tract, had recourse to a prescription, the formula of which came into his possession some years since. The medical gentleman who used it, and wrote the formula, gave it his highest commendation, claiming that it would bring away the entire worm in less than six hours. Dr. Ross had only had the opportunity of testing the remedy in one case prior to the one now under consideration. In the first case (a negro woman), the entire worm was expelled in a little more than six hours; in the case of the gentleman, furnishing the specimen here presented, less than six hours was required. The formula of the prescription is as follows:

R. Pomegranate-root..... ½ ounce.
Pumpkin-seed..... ½ drachm.
Ext.-male-fern.....1 drachm.
Powd.-ergot.....1 drachm.
Powd.-gum-acacia.....2 drachms.
Croton-oil.....2 drops.

The pomegranate-root and pumpkin-seed are to be thoroughly bruised, and with the ergot, to be boiled for fifteen minutes, in 8 ounces of water, and strain—the croton-oil to be rubbed up with the acacia and extract-filix-mas, and formed into an emulsion with the decoction.

S. To be taken in one dose after fasting.—[*Virginia Medical Monthly.*

TURPENTINE IN DIPHTHERIA AND TONSILLITIS.

Dr. Peabody (in *Medical and Surgical Reporter*) says: "I commence the treatment of all cases of diphtheria and tonsillitis by seeing that the alimentary-canal is properly cleaned, by the administration of Epsom or Rochelle salts, where they can be taken; if not, the granulated citrate of magnesia is palatable, and seldom objected to. I also immediately put my patient on the following prescription:

R. Ol.-terebinthinæ	2	drachms.
Pulvis-potassæ-chlo	2	drachms.
Pulvis sach, alba	½	ounce.
Pulvis-acaciæ	½	ounce.
Aquæ	5	ounces.

Sig. Shake up well, and take a large teaspoonful every hour or two, until the inflammatory symptoms begin to subside, then less often; always directing it to be rinsed well around in the mouth before swallowing, so that every possible portion of the inflamed mucous-membrane, from the lips to the stomach, may be touched with the turpentine and chlorate of potash.

"The inhalation of steam, from hops and vinegar, is allowed, if the patient desires, as it is soothing to the inflamed mucous-membrane.

"If this alone does not relieve the patient in twenty-four hours, or less in severe cases, I add to the emulsion forty-eight grains of sulphate of quinine, so that we get the local effect, as well as the constitutional, to this potent drug. This is taken in the same way every two or three hours, alternating it with twenty drops of tinctura-ferri-mur., if desired. As I said before, I have yet to see the first fatal case where this treatment was carried out from the onset of the disease."

COMPLETE ABSENCE OF THE MENSTRUAL FUNCTION.

At a meeting of the Obstetrical Society of Boston, Dr. Minot said that he had recently been consulted by a single lady, thirty-four years old, in reference to a slight indigestion, and learned that she had never menstruated, nor had she ever had any symptom referable to an attempt at menstruation, such as pain, discomfort, fullness, oppression; in short, any symptom which could be referred either to the presence or the absence of the catemenia. So far as could be judged from external appearance, she was a fully-developed woman, in perfect health.

HEADACHE FROM CEREBRAL-CONGESTION.

ACTIVE VARIETY.—Dark room, cold to head, saline-cathartic, and;

R. Sodii-bromid ..... 2½ drachms.
Fl.-ext.-ergot ..... 2½ drachms.
Syr.-zinzib ..... ½ ounce.
Aq.-aurant. Flor. q. s. ad .. .. 4 ounces.

M. Sig. Half ounce every two hours.

If the skin be hot and dry, and the pulse full and rapid, give Fleming's tinct.-aconit.-rad., 2 drops every two hours, until the heart's action is sensibly diminished. Sometimes a hot mustard foot-bath will give relief.

PASSIVE VARIETY.—Improve condition of the blood by the use of iron, quinine, bitter-tonic, alcoholic-stimulants, good food, and stimulate the heart's action by the use of the following:

R. Tinct.-digitalis ..... 3 drachms.
Spts.-amm.-aromat ..... 6 drachms.
Spts.-lavand-co ..... 3 ounces.
Syr.-simp ..... 3 ounces.

M. Sig. 1 drachm every four hours.

HEADACHE OF CEREBRAL-ANÆMIA.

Improve the general condition of the patient, and stimulate heart's action as recommended in the passive cerebral congestive variety. Nitrate of amyl will relieve the immediate headache. Let the patient inhale from three to five drops of it on a piece of cotton, placed within one nostril, while the other is held closed. When associated with nervous exhaustion, I employ the following:

R. Strych.-sulph ..... ½ grain.
Tinc.-fer.-chlor ..... 2 drachms.
Glycerine ..... ½ ounce.
Infus. gentian, q. s. ad ..... 6 ounces.

M. Sig. ½ ounce after meals, in a wine-glass of water.

MALARIAL-HEADACHE.

Quinine to cinchonism. If pain continues to recur, arsenic and belladonna.

FLUID-EXTRACT OF EUCALYPTUS-GLOBULUS IN DROPSIES.

Dr. J. B. Leary, in the *Proceedings of the Medical Society of King's County*, says that nearly four years ago he prescribed eucalyptus as a specific in gonorrhœa. Then he noticed, also, its remarkable diuretic effect. He now reports the more remarkably successful use of ten-minim doses of the fluid-extract in four cases of dropsy of long standing—the dropsy in one case being due to Bright's disease; in the second, to cardiac-hypertrophy by dilation; in the third, to cardiac disease; and in the fourth, to cardiac-hypertrophy. The doses were increased beyond ten minims, three or four times a day; but in some cases, diminished to eight minims—the system at no time tolerating it.

The Doctor adds that he has also given the medicine in a great many cases of passive congestion of the kidneys, and always with benefit. Patients while taking the drug would sometimes complain of very severe congestive-headache, accompanied with tinnitus-aurium. The appetite was improved; and in some cases a laxative condition of the bowels was produced.

It should be remembered, in prescribing it, that the drug contains a resin, which is precipitated by many other agents. Dr. Leary's most frequent combination was with digitalis.

INJECTION OF CHLORAL.

Dr. Warren, in a letter from Paris (to *Medical Times*) says: "Dr. Bouilland has just read before the Academy an exceedingly interesting paper by M. Ore, in which he gives an account of a case in which amputation of the thigh was performed while the patient was in a state of anæsthesia produced by the injection of chloral into a vein. He states that complete insensibility was readily induced; that neither respiration nor circulation was disturbed; that the patient slept quietly for six hours after the operation, and that the recovery was rapid and unattended by any accident. It seems that this method has been pursued in quite a number of instances, and has been invariably crowned with success—neither local lesions nor systemic complications having manifested themselves. Although by no means a substitute for chloroform or ether, there are undoubtedly circumstances under which it can be rendered available by the surgeon; and hence it may be regarded as an additional resource of his art.

HEADACHE OF RHEUMATISM.

Characterized usually by tenderness of the scalp, which is increased on pressure or motion. Use the mild faradic current on the scalp, and internally the following:

R. Potass.-iod..... 1½ drachm.
Amm.-muriat..... 1½ drachm.
Infus. humuli..... 6 ounces.

M. Sig. ½ ounce four times a day, in a wine-glass of water.

In some cases, which have not yielded to the above treatment, bromide of ammonium, in twenty-grain doses, every two hours is effectual.—[*Dr. Smith, in Medical Record.*

DATURIA AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR ATROPIA.

It has been proposed to substitute daturia, the alkaloids of the Jamestown weed, for atropia, as a mydriatic. The two alkaloids were formerly considered as identical, but their difference is now acknowledged. Daturia is three times as active as atropia, and its dose is therefore much less. When applied to the eye it does not cause the pain and confusion of vision which follows the use of atropia. Its effects are more constant and persistent. Such are the statements recently published.—[*Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal.*

FLUID-EXTRACT OF ERGOT IN DIARRHŒA.

Dr. E. T. Comegys reports (New York *Medical Record*) that he has had marked success with fluid-extract-ergot in diarrhœa. He says: "I have based my use of this drug on the theory that it causes a contraction of the involuntary muscular fibres, and in so doing, relieves the atony of the vessels of the intestinal mucous-membrane, and the consequent hyperæmia of the capillaries (which is always associated with diarrhœas), and thus prevents the transudation of the watery portions of the blood; in other words, it gives *tone* to the vascular walls. Be the theory worth what it may, the success attending its use has been marked. I first tried it, at my clinic at the Dispensary of

the Cincinnati Hospital, in the case of a patient with chronic-diarrhœa, of two years' standing. No line of treatment had been able to reduce the number of his stools to less than eight per day. All other treatment was stopped, and he was given forty drops of the ergot, four times a day. He came back four days afterward, saying that he was only having two stools per day; and when he next reported, ten days afterward, he said that he had been entirely well for the past eight days. I heard from him three months afterward, and he had no return of his diarrhœa. He used the ergot six days. I used it frequently after that; in ordinary, simple diarrhœas, gave no other medicine, and found that the patients seldom required beyond three doses (twenty drops each), and never more than six. While stationed at Fort Wadsworth, New York Harbor, last summer, I used it in twelve cases—the number of stools varying from eight to twenty in the twenty-four hours—and in but one case was I obliged to give more than three doses to each case. In that one case, it failed to modify the diarrhœa; but that may be accounted for by the fact that the ergot had been kept on hand for a long time. Since I have been stationed at this post, I have had but three chances to try it. In one case it failed (a case of chronic-diarrhœa, of four years' standing); in the second one, my patient refused to take more than one dose, on account of its unpleasant taste; in the third case, it succeeded."

[For the Brief.]

HABITUAL-CONSTIPATION.

R. Aloes-pulv.....30 grains.
Ext.-nuc.-vom ..... 5 grains.
Ext.-belladonna ..... 4 grains.
Mix. Make 15 pills.
S. One every night.

DON ROY, M. D.

TO DISGUISE THE TASTE OF COD-LIVER-OIL.

R. Cod-liver-oil .....12 ounces.
Oil-cinnamon.....24 drops.
Oil orange-peel.....24 drops.
Oil-myrbane.....40 drops.
Mix.

The oil-myrbane has precisely the taste and odor of oil-bitter-almonds, but being destitute of poisonous properties is preferable for flavoring purposes.

MILK AS A VEHICLE FOR BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM.

Dr. A. K. Minich writes to the Philadelphia *Medical Times* that a patient suffering from alcoholism stoutly refused to take bromide of potassium, or any other "confounded medicine." Twenty grains were dissolved in a glass of milk, which he drank readily. "Since then," says Dr. Minich, "I find that twenty grains are entirely disguised by one ounce of milk. I have also found milk a very useful liquid to 'wash down' salicylic-acid wafers. It has always, in my hands, prevented the burning in the stomach, which is so often produced when the acid is given in large and oft-repeated doses."

VALENTINE'S MEAT-JUICE AND GLYCERINE IN CHOLERA-INFANTUM.

Dr. McIlhanny says, in the *Virginia Medical Monthly:* "I desire to call the attention of the profession to the use of this most valuable food-tonic and remedy in cholera-infantum. I have met with a large number of cases during the past two and a half months, and in *every case*, I have substituted it for pure milk, condensed milk, or other food usually used for this class of patients—excepting, of course, those foods which nature has provided. Even in such cases, I have also given it with a view of assisting digestion. It has not failed in a single instance to arrest the vomiting and nausea within the shortest imaginable time—acting almost like magic—the first or second dose usually relieving these symptoms.

Of course, I do not wish to be understood as not having used any other treatment. In some cases, I prescribed simple remedies in connection with the meat-juice and glycerine. My usual mode of administration was to give pure meat-juice and glycerine: say to a child, six months of age, I gave from 15 to 20 drops every three hours; and *in some cases* directed the following:

R. Hydrarg.-chlorid. mit.....1 grain.
Pulv.-doveri.....3 grains.
Plumbi-acetat.....2 grains.
Cretæ-preparat.....8 grains.

M. Et. fit. chart No. 12. Sig. One to be given every three hours when necessary.

Or other preparations might be suggested by the symptoms as they arose.

I will state, as briefly as possible, the use of meat-juice and glycerine in the above disease:

I was called in consultation to see twins, age 5 months. They were affected identically alike in every symptom. Finding them almost exhausted by vomiting and purging every few minutes—all other food, as well as medicine, being rejected—I suggested the meat-juice and glycerine, in 15-drop doses, every three hours, with the above prescription; milk, and hot-water-tea, and all other nourishment to be discontinued at once. (Nature had not provided any nourishment.) The mother had charge of one—the little girl—an aunt the other—a little boy. The mother declared her girl should not have the meat-juice and glycerine; the aunt, having more confidence, said her boy should have it. The violent symptoms in his case were arrested in less than six hours; the little girl continued to grow worse, when, at last, the mother thought it prudent to change her mind, and consented to give it as directed. Happily, the symptoms (now much more aggravated) in the case of the little girl were relieved. We gradually increased the meat-juice and glycerine to twenty drops every three hours. This was the only food allowed them, except for a few days, when they were again placed on the milk-and-water-diet (owing to our not having the meat-juice and glycerine). During the short period of the use of the milk-and-water-diet, they relapsed, and were not again relieved until the resumption of the meat-juice and glycerine.

[For the Brief.]

FOR ASTHMA.

R. Camphor-water	8	ounces.
Brom.-Potas	½	ounce.
Brom.-ammonia	½	ounce.
Tinct.-lobelia	1	ounce.
Tinct.-stramonium	1	ounce.

Mix. Teaspoonful every three hours. L. H. WASHINGTON, M. D.

[For the Brief.]

EMMENAGOGUE.

R. Fluid-extract-caulophyllum	3	ounces.
Fluid-extract-water-pepper	1½	ounce.
Fluid-extract-ergot	1	ounce.
Oil-savin	3	drachms.
Alcohol	2	ounces.

Mix. Thirty drops every three hours. L. H. WASHINGTON, M. D.

[For the Brief.]

THE BEST WAY TO ADMINISTER SALICYLIC-ACID.

Sweet spirits of nitre is the best solvent for salicylic-acid, as it will dissolve twenty grains per ounce, *perfectly;* hence the best formula for administering salicylic-acid in rheumatic or other fevers, is the following:

R. Acid-salicylic.....40 grains.
Sweet-spts.-nitre..... 2 ounces.
M. Teaspoonful every three hours. DON ROY, M. D.

DR. ESBACH says, a man who perspires easily, and who inhabits a ground-floor, becomes, sooner or later, rheumatic; if, on the contrary, he lives in a dry apartment, he is never troubled with that malady. On the other hand, a man who is not subject to perspiration, may live in a damp room with impunity. Rheumatism appears thus to be placed on its real ground; dampness may be the cause of it, but only in such habits as perspire freely.—[*Canada Jour.*

TREATMENT OF ACUTE-ALBUMINURIA.

BY F. DE HAVILLAND HALL, M. D.

The treatment of cases of acute-albuminuria being still a subject on which there is a great difference of opinion, I am induced to relate the experience I gained as Resident Medical Officer at a large dispensary during an epidemic of scarlet-fever (about three hundred cases), in which dropsy was a frequent sequel.

"Directly any albumen was detected in the urine, the patient was ordered the per-chloride of iron, and was allowed no solid food, except a little bread and milk, and as much water as he liked to drink: this treatment, together with keeping the skin gently acting, sufficed in the majority of cases, but in a certain number, the urine was almost suppressed, and in some there were uræmic symptoms. Whenever either of these contingencies occurred, I forbade all food for twelve hours, the child to have nothing but water and a drink made of acid-tartrate of potash (1 oz. ad. 1 pt.) in sweetened water with a little lemon juice. If at the end of this time the kidneys were beginning to act, I allowed a little milk, but not more than a pint in twenty-four

hours; if, however, the uræmia continued with little or no urinary secretion, I persevered with the water and bi-tartrate of potash, and in severe cases nothing else has been given for thirty-six hours. Dry-cupping, mustard-poultices over the loins, and a purgative were the only additional remedies employed. The explanation of the good effects of abstention from solid food, and especially meat, during the course of acute-desquamative-nephritis, is, that if a patient is entirely deprived of nitrogenous food, the work of the kidneys is lessened, and the urine is rendered less irritating, and the mild diuretic action of the bi-tartrate of potash seems to be useful. * * * I would sum up the treatment of acute Bright's disease in the following words:

"1. Milk and water with arrow-root, no solid food. 2. Milk diuretics, such as the citrate of bi-tartrate of potash with a free supply of water. 3. The skin kept just moist. 4. A daily evacuation of the bowels."—[*London Practitioner.*

SULPHO-CARBONATE OF SODA IN SCARLET-FEVER.

Dr. Pirnot says: "In April, 1876, I attended three daughters of L. P., aged seventeen, thirteen and two and a half years, for malignant scarlet-fever, with miliary-eruption, following diphtheria and severe throat complication. For ten days, they were treated with sulphite of soda, sulphite of potassium, carbolic-acid, chloride of potassæ and glycerine, salicylic-acid, with acetate of ammonia and glycerine, alternated with quinine and muriated tincture of iron; a nourishing diet, and ice in rubber-bags externally. The throats were also swabbed every two or three hours with eight per cent. of carborlic-acid in glycerine. They became worse; and when at the point of death, I resorted to the following:

R. Sulpho-carbonate of soda..... 1½ drachm.
Aqua-flores-aurontii..... 1 ounce.
Syrup.-pruni-virgin..... 1½ ounce.
Syrup-tolu..... ½ ounce.

Sig. One teaspoonful every two hours, and half that quantity for youngest. Also—

R. Acid.-carbolic-pur..... 1½ drachm.
Glycerine-pur..... 1 ounce.

Sig. Swab the throat with a large camel's hair-brush, and continue ice externally.

For ten hours from the first dose of the above mixture, grea t change for the better took place, and the two previously suffocating patients could again breathe easier. With the above remedy, general tonic and supporting treatment, the two youngest rapidly convalesced; but the oldest took pneumonia, complicated with severe diarrhœa, both of which subsided under tonic-stimulant and sedative treatment, and generous diet; and she made a good recovery.

CASE 2.—Mrs. M. L.'s son, aged eight years, took scarlet-fever, also with miliary-eruption and very high fever. I prescribed the above mixture, to be taken first every three hours. On the sixth day from the first dose, he was out of bed. The same mixture was given to the other three children (in proportion to ages) as a preventive, with success.

CASE 3.—In June, 1876, my son, aged five months, took the disease, and received the remedy, in grain-doses, every three hours, with some other ingredients, and made a very good and rapid recovery. His brother, aged two years, received the same mixture; the dose being three and a half grains, four times a day, without getting the disease.—[*Medical and Surgical Reporter.*

POWDER FOR PRODUCING OZONE.

In order to produce artificial ozone, Mr. Lender makes use of equal parts of peroxide of manganese, permanganate of potassium, and oxalic-acid. When this mixture is placed in contact with water, ozone is quickly generated. For a room of medium size, two spoonfuls of this powder, placed on a dish, and occasionally diluted with water, would be sufficient. The ozone develops itself; it disinfects the surrounding air without producing cough.—[*Medical Press and Circular.*

BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM IN HEMORRHAGE.

It has been asserted that this agent induces contraction of the blood vessels, and Dr. Geneuil (*L' Union Medicale*) has used a local application in the treatment of epistaxis, uterine-hemorrhage, and coryza. It should also be given internally. In coryza, two injections of a saturated solution into the nose gives relief in an hour, and a permanent cure is effected in about six hours.

INJECTION OF QUININE IN GONORRHŒA.

Dr. Roy extols the efficacy of injections of quinia in gonorrhœa. He states: "I was once tempted to try it in a case of acute-gonorrhœa, where scalding was unbearable and discharge profuse, and to my utter surprise, after the third day, I found the man quite relieved. He described to me the soothing effect of the injection as something cold, like ice. The discharge was so much diminished that his clothes were scarcely stained after the third day. There was no more incessant desire to void the bladder, and he was to all appearance comfortable. My success in this case made me bold enough to use it in other cases; and I have invariably found the disease yield both in acute and chronic stages under its influence. It acts as a tonic and astringent to the mucous-membrane of the urethra. I have also used it in some cases of cystitis with much benefit. I generally use it dissolved in sulphuric-acid, diluted, mixed with rose-water. Two grains of quinine-sulph., dissolved in acid-sulph., dil. ten drops, and mixed with an ounce of rose-water; to be used twice for injection. At the same time, I give copaiba mixture to my patients. In almost all the cases, I have found it acts like a charm. They are generally cured within a week; but chronic cases take a longer time. In a few acute cases it took more than a fortnight; but the delay in them was attributable to their irregular habits during the treatment."—[*Indian Medical Gazette.*

[For the Brief.]

DRINKING OF MUCH FLUID THE CAUSE OF OBESITY.

Since making the treatment of obesity somewhat a specialty, I am fully convinced that the drinking of much water, or other fluid, is one of the principal causes of obesity, the oxygen and hydrogen of water forming with the carbon of food to make fat.

Mr. M. Dancel adverts to a circumstance hitherto completely overlooked by professional men who have made the cure of obesity their peculiar duty. While collecting observations concerning the cure of obesity in men, he remarked that those who feed on substances containing little or no adipose matter did not diminish in corpulency when they drank much, and it struck him that water and watery-substances must favor obesity. The experiments he made proved this to be a fact; and he now

expresses surprise at finding that among the experiments tried for the fattening of animals, the water, often absorbed in considerable quantities by the subject, was never taken into account, while he now shows that water plays a great part in producing obesity, as may be received from the following experiments: among the horses of the regiment of Garde de Paris there was one remarkable for its leanness. At Dr. Dancel's request, the veterinary surgeon of the regiment diminished its daily ration of oats to three pounds per day, while it was supplied with abundance of water, into which a pound of bran was put. In the course of twenty-seven days, it increased about thirty-six pounds in weight. In the same regiment, an exceedingly fat mare, that could hardly carry its rider, was reduced from an allowance of sixty litres of water per day to fifteen, and speedily lost its obesity, resuming its former vigor. I think the corpulency of beer-drinkers is due more to the amount of fluid drank than any fattening properties of the beer—fat persons being generally great consumers of fluids. In all the cases of successful treatment of excessive corpulency, the amount of fluid taken has been diminished to the least possible amount.

M. M. GRIFFITH, M. D.

PARSONS, LUZERNE COUNTY, PA., Sept., 1876.

BALTIMORE, September 21, 1876.
201 Hanover street.

DR. J. J. LAWRENCE, EDITOR MEDICAL BRIEF—*Sir:* I desire to write you in regard to a successful and complete cure of sick-headache, which you are at liberty to publish for the benefit of those who are such great sufferers from this distressing disease: my wife, for the past twenty years, has suffered the torture of the damned, from sick-headache. Every treatment which I, and very many medical friends of mine, could devise, were useless. Every week she would be confined to her room by her tormentor, sick-headache. She suffered from no dyspepsia or uterine trouble, but is a robust and well-nourished person. Six months ago I gave her in (catchets de Paris) five grains of sulphate of soda, three times a day, after eating, and since that time she has never had a headache or a symptom of it.

Very truly, your obedient servant,

A. W. DODGE, M. D.

[For the Brief.]

STILLINGIA-SYLVATICA—(QUEEN'S-DELIGHT.)

Extract from a manuscript of Materia-Medica, written by I. G. M. Goss, M. D., A. M., of Marietta, Ga., written with special reference to indigenous and new remedies, to be published by subscription.

Stillingia-sylvatica, known by the common name of queen's-delight, yaw-root, and silver-leaf, etc., is an indigenous perennial root, with herbaceous stems from two to three feet high. The leaves are alternate, sessile, oblong, rather lanceolate oblong, obtuse, surrulate, tapering at the base, and accompanied with stipules. The male and female-flowers are distinct upon the same plant; they are yellow, and arranged in the form of a spike; the male-flowers occupy the upper part of this spike. The male-florets are but little longer than the bracteal-scales. It grows in sandy and rocky-soil, or pine-barrens, from Virginia to Florida, and flowers from April to July. When wounded, it emits a milky juice. The root is the officinal part, and is large, thick and woody, of a pale-red color internally, and of dirty-brown on the outside. It has a bitter, pungent taste, leaving an impression of a disagreeable acrimony in the mouth and fauces. Much of its property depends upon an oil that is rather volatile, hence must be used while fresh, or tinctured while fresh. Much of it sold in market is worthless, as it loses its virtue by long drying. It should be procured fresh, and tinctured. The tincture made: 8 ounces to 1 pint of alcohol; dose, 10 to 20 drops.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—No remedy in the Materia-Medica better deserves the name "Alterative," or as Headland styles such remedies, "Catalytic," than stillingia-sylvatica. It resembles, in action, the iodide of potassa, phytolacca, mercury and corydalis. It is a very positive remedy in secondary and tertiary-syphilis. It cures periosteal-rheumatism and periosteal-nodes, caused from syphilis.

One writer reports the following cases, to-wit: "A little girl who had an enlargement of the tibia to such an extent as to deprive her of all motion, and there were bony enlargements of other parts of the osseous-structure, resembling nodes, of the head, and upon the olecranon-process, as large as an egg. The bones of the nose were much affected. Mercurials and various alteratives had been tried without effect. I put her upon stillingia, in doses as large as the stomach would tolerate without nausea. This course was continued for some months, and the

improvement was gradual, and the patient has the use of her limbs, and to every appearance will speedily be restored to health in a few more months."

I had recently a case of indolent-ulceration of the leg in a young man. The ulcer was very large, involving all the front portion of the limb. His physicians had tried murcurials and various local applications for several years, but still the ulcer remained unhealed. I put him upon stillingia and corydalis, with local applications of glycerine and carbolic-acid, and the patient soon began to improve, and in two months was restored to health.

There was an Indian woman (an old veteran in the wars of Venus) applied to me for treatment. She had been treated in Augusta and Atlanta, Ga., by the best skilled of those cities, as well as elsewhere; had been mercurialized, used the iodides, sarsaparilla and all usual remedies, but was still uncured. I found her with extensive ulceration of the vagina; also, of the tonsils and soft palate. I put her upon stillingia, corydalis and phytolacca, alternated with the iodide of ammonia; under this treatment, she soon recovered her health, and remained well for several years—as long as I had knowledge of her. Some years ago, there were two women, both far advanced in pregnancy, one of them too near confinement to be treated, hence I did not treat her until after she was confined. The one that was not so near her term I put upon the above treatment, and cured her sound and well before her confinement. The other case I treated in a similar way, and at the same time treated the infant with a highly diluted syrup of the stillingia and corydalis, and cured both the mother and child in some few months. A young man applied to me for treatment for syphilis. He had large buboes in each groin. I put him upon stillingia and the iodide of potassa, which eradicated every trace of the disease in a few months. And I could give many more cases similar if space permitted it.

In chronic-syphilitic-eruptions, torpid, scaly and obstinates, stillingia is an excellent remedy. In congenital-syphilis, it acts better than iodine alone, or mercurials. Where the osseous-system is affected, it may be alternated with the chloride of gold with good effect. Stillingia has an affinity for the larynx, and this affinity renders it a very positive remedy for syphilitic-laryngitis. It is also valuable in non-syphilitic laryngitis

and pharyngitis. In that chronic state of congestion called "minister's sore throat," it has proved very positive in my hands. Combined with scrofularia (figwort) and menispermum (yellow-parilla), and alternated with iodine, or the iodides, I have found it very positive in the treatment of scrofula and scrofulous skin affections. In chronic-gonorrhœa, connected with a strumous diathesis, and in leucorrhœa, I have found the stillingia to act well.

It is apparent that stillingia increases waste and excretion, and powerfully stimulates the lymphatic system, favoring the formation of good lymph, and consequently, good blood; hence, it is the remedy for scrofula and secondary-syphilis. It has been a great deal used in the form of compound-syrup, which is either made from the old, dried root, or is made by boiling, which evaporates the oil, upon which its virtues depend. The dried, old root, as found in the market, is worthless. The tincture of the fresh root is the most reliable preparation. Dose, 20 drops.

[For the Brief.]

EAST BOSTON, September 18, 1876.

EDITOR MEDICAL BRIEF—*Dear Sir:* In the last number of the BRIEF, page 86, I find a letter from Dr. J. F. Dunphy, in which he speaks of a case of knotted-funis as something of a rarity. Within the last two years I have seen three cases. In one knot, there were three knots; in the rest, one. Bedford's *Obstetrics*, edition 1871, gives the reason of these knots as an extra long funis, with plenty of liquor annonii.

Yours truly, J. C. FRENCH, M. D.

[For the Brief.]

HEPATIC-PILLS.

R. Aloes-socotrine	4	drachms.
Gambogie	2	drachms.
Soponis-dura	1	drachm.
Podoplyllum	½	drachm.
Leptandrin	15	grains.
Ol-capsicii	2	drops.
Aqua		

Make pills, No. 144.

Sig. Take one pill three times a day. L. G. DOANE, M. D.

ON THE USE OF XANTHIUM-SPINOSUM IN THE TREATMENT OF HYDROPHOBIA.

A physician in Padolia (where rabies frequently occur in dogs and wolves, and where yearly a large number of persons are bitten by rabid animals) has for many years used the leaves of the xanthium-spinosum in the treatment of this affection, and he thinks that from the results of his wide experience, he is justified in calling it an "infallible" remedy. When the drug is administered early enough to those who have been bitten, the disease does not occur, while in persons who have been bitten by the same animals, and have been treated by other methods, or not at all, hydrophobia is developed. The physiological action of the drug is similar to that of jaborandi, but far less marked.

It is administered in the form of powder to adults, in doses of 0.3 grm., three times a day, while to children, one-half the quantity is given, and the treatment should be continued about three weeks. The doctor is so fully convinced of the certain effect of the remedy, that for a long time he has not cauterized the wounds due to the bites of rabid animals.—[*Journal de Therapeutique.*

[For the Brief.]

THE ACIDS--THEIR THERAPEUTICAL ACTION AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS--A TABLE FOR THE USE OF CHEMISTS.

BY L. G. DOANE, M. D.

In tabulating the medicinal-acids, I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to the following excellent publications:

A system of Materia-Medica.—(Wood.)
A New Chemistry.—(Cooke.)
Examinations of Medicinal Chemicals.—(Hoffman.)

This table is intended for physicians and chemists, who have no leisure to give to research among chemical works of the peculiar character containing it.

At a glance, the dose, action, and chemical test can be seen, as well as the adulterations used, and method of detecting them. It condenses into a small space satisfactory information, and can be consulted in a moment.

The Medical Acids. A Table, by LUIGI G. DOANE, M. D., Department Public Charities and Correction, N. Y. City.

Name and Dose.	Therapeutical Action.	Chemical Test.	Substances Used to Adulterate.	Method Used to Detect Adulterations.
Acidum-Arseniosum. Dose, gr. 1-10 to 1-20.	Anti-periodic and Alterative.	Marshe's Test. Raspail's Test.	Chalk, Sulphate Lime, Sulphate of Baryta.	Mineral admixtures dissolved in Hydrochloric-Acid, and left behind at a red-heat. (On platinum-foil.)
Acidum-Benzoicum. Dose, gr. x to xx.	Stimulant and Errhine	A reddish-yellow precipitate as the addition of Hydrochloric Acid and Nitrate of Iron.	Hippuric-Acid, Cinnamonic-Acid, Sugar, Boric-Acid, Mineral-Matter.	Hippuric-Acid gives a violet color with Permanganate of Potassium. Cinnamonic-Acid gives odor bitter-almonds, with Bichromate of Potassium and Sulphuric-Acid. Sugar, when heated in Iron, odor of Caromel. Boric-Acic gives a green color to the flame of an alcohol-lamp.
Acidum-Carbolicum. Dose, gtts. 1 to 2.	Anti-septic, Expectorant, Alterative.	Gives a gelatinous precipitate with collodion.	Cresol.	Mixed with Liquor-Potassium, and warmed in a test-tube, gives a clear solution.
Acidum-Citricum. Dose, gr. v to xx.	Refrigerant and Antiseptic.	Does not render Lime-Water turbid.	Tartaric-Acid. Metallic-Impurities.	Tartaric-Acid renders Lime-Water turbid. Mineral substances change Hydrosulphuric-Acid a dark color.
Acidum-Gallicum. Dose, gr. x to xx.	Astringent.	Gives a blueish-black precipitate with salts of iron.	Tannic-Acid, Sugar.	Gives a white precipitate with a dilute solution of Gelatine-Sugar, not dissolved by addition of Alcohol.
Acidum-Hydrocyanic. Dose, M 1 to 2.	Anti-spasmodic.	Gives a blue precipitate with Chloride of Iron.	Phosphoric and Hydrochloric-Acids.	For Hydrochloric-Acid, add Nitrate of Silver. (White precipitate.) Phosphoric-Acid gives a yellow precipitate with Molybdate of Ammonia.
Acidum-Lacticum. Dose, drachm ½ to 2.	Anti-dyspeptic.	When heated with Permanganate of Potassium, gives odors of Aldelyde.	Gum-Glycerine.	Does not make Lime-Water turbid. If turbidity exist, Oxalic-Acid, Phosphoric-Acid, Citric-Acid are present.
Acidum-Muriaticum. Dose, gtts. v to x.	Tonic and Alterative.	White precipitate with Nitrate of Silver.	Sulphuric-Acid.	White precipitate with Chloride of Barium.
Acidum-Nitricum. Dose, gtts. v to x.	Tonic and Alterative.	Turns red with Iron Salts.	Hydrochloric-Acid.	See same acid above.

MEDICATION OF INFANTS THROUGH MOTHERS' MILK.

From experiments made by Dr. Lewald, it appears that sundry medicines are most advantageously introduced into the system of an infant through the mother's milk. Thus of iron: a larger quantity can be administered to the infant in this way than by any other means. Bismuth, however, is eliminated in the milk only in very small quantity. Iodine does not appear in the milk until ninety-six hours after taking it; iodine of potassium appears four hours after ingestion, and continues to be eliminated for eleven days. Arsenic appears in the milk at the end of seventeen hours, and continues for at least forty hours. Oxide of zinc, though one of the most insoluble preparations, is eliminated by the milk; it disappears sooner than iron. The elimination of antimony is an undeniable fact, and it is well to bear this in mind during the period of nursing. The same holds true in regard to mercurial preparations. That alcohol and narcotics are eliminated by the milk, has not been demonstrated. Sulphate of quinine is eliminated very easily; and a child suffering from intermittent-fever was cured by administering quinine to the nurse.

NERVOUS-HEADACHE.

Place two drops of nitrate of amyl on the palm of the patient's hand, and quickly diffusing these with the finger over the palmer-surface, tell her to cover her mouth and nose with her hand, and to inspire deeply and quietly. No time should be lost after the nitrate is dropped on the hand, as it evaporates rapidly. The patient should be seated while inhaling, as the peculiar effects of the nitrate are produced almost instantaneously, and may occasionally alarm a very nervous or hysterical female. Fortunately, these symptoms last a very short time—generally less than two or three minutes—and with their cessation the pain almost invariably ceases. Two drops may be given as a draught in water, instead of by inhalation; but the latter mode is much more satisfactory.

For persistent vomiting in pregnancy, give a teaspoonful of warm milk, as soon as possible after drawing, night and morning.—[*Medical Reporter.*

DIPHTHERIA.

SYMPTOMS.

The disease is ushered in with a chill, more or less fever, no cough, enlargement of the glands of the neck and throat; the patient complains of sore throat, difficulty in deglutition, pains and aching all through the system; indisposition from prostration. On examining the throat, we find white patches of membraneous exudation deposited on the tonsils; it may be swollen, flabulous uvula, the whole cavity of the upper jaw generally dotted over with fine drops of clear exudation. Sometimes we find a long, membraneous band, extending down from the posterior nares, which is soft, but very tenacious. As the disease progresses, the whole of the throat becomes involved. Not only does the uvula become covered, the roof of the mouth, the tonsils, the back part of the pharynx, but the disease extends up through the posterior nares, until the whole passage-way of the nose is almost, if not altogether, closed.

The putridity of this membrane, when left undisturbed, is very offensive, and has a characteristic odor, which, to a person of an acute organ of smell, can be recognized on entering the chamber.

I think it is, in my experience, as easily detected, on first visit, as the odor of a well-developed case of variola.

I wish particularly to call your attention to the fine drops of exudation, perhaps the size of a pin's head, which are frequently found dotting the upper and posterior part of the mouth, resembling somewhat drops of perspiration.

This is, to me, a certain indication of diphtheria. I have seen cases, where that condition was left undisturbed, and the deposit kept developing, until the drops coalesced, and united into one coagulated band, that extended over the entire roof of the mouth, with such evenness that it would *evade* your *closest* scrutiny, *unless* your attention was specially directed to it.

TREATMENT.

I will not stop to enumerate the long list of remedies used, but will confine myself to the method which I have adopted, and with such evident success, that I feel glad to announce to any of you who have not followed the same line of treatment, that you will be compelled to say "Eureka."

If you are permitted to see the patient within the first few hours of the attack, commence your treatment at once with quinine and aromatic-sulphuric-acid, in doses suitable to the age of the person receiving it. Give freely of solution of chlorate of potassa, as a disinfectant, and perhaps you will not be required to administer any other remedies. If, however, the membrane has become so thickly deposited as not to be affected by the acid and chlorine, you should apply with your own hand a mop (properly made), saturated with the liquid persulphate of iron, and literally swab out the throat until you remove every particle of membrane. Let this be repeated two or more times each day, or as often as the membrane would continue so to be reproduced, and you will have the satisfaction of seeing your patient make a speedy recovery without any of the consequent sequelæ.

I took my first hint of the sulphuric-acid treatment from a short extract, which I clipped from a paper coming from a doctor in Australia, where the disease was producing such extensive ravages, that the government offered a large reward for any certain method of cure. I will quote from the paper:

"It is simply the use of sulphuric-acid, of which four drops are diluted in three-fourths of a tumbler of water, to be administered to a grown person, and a smaller dose to children, at intervals not specified. The result is said to be a coagulation of the diphtheritic membrane, and its ready removal by coughing. It is asserted, where the case, thus treated, has not advanced to a nearly fatal termination, the patient recovered in almost every instance."

This suggested to me the treatment which I have already announced; and from the experience of entire success which I have had in the last two years, in not having one fatal case during that time, from that disease, where I had the treating of the case from the beginning, I do not hesitate in declaring it as my opinion, that quinine as an eliminator of the poison from the system, and sulphuric-acid as a detergent to the throat, are decidedly as much a specific for diphtheria as quinine is for intermittent-fever.—[*Dr. Stewart, in Philadelphia Medical Times.*

It is not what people eat, but what they digest, that makes them strong. It is not what they gain, but what they save, that makes them rich. It is not what they read, but what they remember, that makes them learned.

CANCER.

Is cancer a local manifestation of a constitutional disease? or is cancer a local disease, whence the constitution becomes impregnated with cancer-poison through the lymphatics? These are very important questions to the surgeon, bearing on so dread a malady as cancer. If it be a constitutional disease; *i. e.*, if, like tubercle, it manifests itself in the various organs of the body, or on its surface, on account of blood-impregnation of a specific poison, then I think it would be as useless to operate on an organ, or a gland, or the skin, affected with cancer, as it would be in tuberculosis, to remove a swollen-joint or lympathic-gland, infiltrated with tuberculous-matter, to cure consumption. But if cancer be a local disease, whence the system is impregnated with cancer-poison; that is, if like chancre, it intoxicates the system, the local poison being taken up by the lympathics, and conveyed to the various parts of the body, then we may hope—like in syphilis, if we remove the focus (chancre) in time, we may prevent the constitutional impregnation and manifestation of the syphilitic-poison; that if we remove the local hot-bed of cancer-poison in time, *i. e.*, ere the lymphatics have imbibed the malignant germs, to effect a cure.

These are weighty questions for every surgeon to reflect upon; and I think if he will insist on the removal of every growth, wart, or skin affection in all persons, who, either on account of hereditary, age, or idiosyncracy, would lead him to think, or have the least suspicion that the local affection may be, or become cancer or canceroid, it is my conviction we will have less fatal cases to report than our journals have hitherto been obliged to do.—[*Dr. Kempf, in Lancet and Observer.*

[For the Brief.]

TROPICAL DIARRHŒA MIXTURE.

R. Tinct.-kino.....
Tinct.-catechu.....
Tinct.-krameria.....
Tinct.-benzoin-comp.....
Tinct.-opii.....
Tinct.-zingib.....
} equal parts.

Take a teaspoonful three times per day in a wine-glass of water.

L. G. Doane, M. D.

[For the Brief.]

CASE OE BREECH PRESENTATION, COMPLICATED WITH HYDROCEPHALIC-TUMOR.

BY C. F. V. S. BUTLER, M. D.

Was called, September 14th, 1876, to see Mrs. R——, in labor with her second child. Found feet and loop of funis protruding. The cord was pulseless and flaccid, and feet cold. Made traction, and succeeded in delivering to the shoulders, but could draw it no further. The pains having ceased, and being satisfied that there was some abnormity, I sent for my friend, Dr. Reynolds, to assist me. We made traction together, but failed to move the head, which was still above the superior strait. We then made another thorough examination, and found the head hydrocephalic, and concluded to perform cranitomy, which we did with a curved perforator, puncturing the skull near the foranum-magnum. There was discharged about one quart of clear serum, and then the fœtus was withdrawn without difficulty. The placenta soon followed. We gave the mother a dose of ergot.-ext.-fld. to insure perfect contraction of the uterus; and she is now doing well. Upon examination, we found the fluid was confined in a sac, independent of the meninges of the brain, which was attached around the base of the skull. The sac was very spongy and friable, and presented a flacculent appearance, internally. It was several lines in thickness. The brain was very much flattened from pressure; so much as to cover one-half of the sac, anteriorly. We neglected to measure the head; but it was three or four times the size of an ordinary fœtal head.

[For the Brief.]

PRURITUS.

I have found the following to be *the best* and *most pleasant* remedy for PRURITUS and *all cutaneous itchings:*

R. Crab.-bismuth ..... 20 grains.
Morphia-sul ..... 2 grains.
Lime-water ..... 2 ounces.
Ess.-peppermint ..... 2 ounces.

M. Apply to the parts freely without friction.

DON ROY, M. D.

UTERINE-HEMORRHAGE.

Dr. R. Windelband brought to the notice of the Berlin Medical Society his success with injections of hot-water *per vaginam*, in the treatment of all forms of uterine-hemorrhage, dependent upon imperfect contraction of that organ, particularly in abortion. The application produces active contraction of the organ, and arrests the bleeding. After an experience of two years with the remedy, he says, "*That we have in hot injections an invaluable and sure remedy for all uterine-hemorrhages*, which is preferable to the application of cold or any astringents at the moment when we need to give immediate help."

[For the Brief.]

REMEDY FOR DANDRUFF.

R. Chloral-hydrate.....10 grains.
Tinct.-canthar.....20 drops.
Glycerine..... 1 ounce.
Aqua..... 3 ounces.

Mix. Rub from ½ to 1 ounce into the scalp by means of a sponge, and repeat it every morning. A slight burning sensation and reddening of the scalp occurs, disappearing after two minutes. If the hair had fallen off in consequence of the dandruff, it will be renewed in about a month. DON ROY, M. D.

PILLS FOR OBSTINATE NEURALGIA.

The *Bordeaux Medical* gives the following formula for obstinate neuralgia, especially ileo-lumbar-neuralgia:

R. Valerianate of ammonia.....30 grains.
Quinine.....30 grains.

Make into twenty pills, and take from two to ten of them each day, increasing one pill per diem. After taking these pills for ten days, suspend their use for five days.

CREASOTE AS A STYPTIC.

Dr. Bottger strongly recommends the application of creasote, by means of cotton-wood or chapie, in hemorrhage from the mouth, nose, or pharynx. In dental cases, a plug, soaked in a thick mixture of creasote and alum, is to be pressed into the alveolar-cavity.—[*The Doctor.*

HYDRATE OF CHLORAL AS A DRESSING FOR WOUNDS AND ULCERS.

BY DR. WILLIAM CRAIG, F. R. S. E.

I have tried chloral extensively as an external application to wounds and abraded surfaces. I found as the result of these experiments that a lotion containing from five to fifteen grains of the hydrate of chloral to the ounce of water formed an excellent dressing to ulcers and wounds, dressed with lint and gutta-percha in the ordinary manner. I could relate several cases; but I will select only one: A young lad, T. M., lately one of the boys in the Mars training-ship, had one of his legs severely burned; and after being treated by the surgeon in charge of the ship for three months, the boy was recommended to go into Dundee hospital to have the limb amputated below the knee. As T. M. was within a fortnight of receiving his discharge from the ship, he was allowed to visit his friends in Edinburgh, who were unwilling that the leg should be amputated, and put the boy under my care. I saw him in April last, and found a large ulcer on the leg, extending from a little below the knee to the middle of the foot, and several inches in breadth. The edges were very irregular, and a considerable amount of fœtid discharge came from the ulcer. The boy and his friends were very anxious that I would try and preserve the limb. I ordered a lotion containing fifteen grains of the hydrate of chloral to the ounce of water, some chloral-lint, such as is manufactured by J. P. McFarlan & Co., of this city, as recommended by Dr. P. H. Watson, and some gutta-percha, and gave instructions for having the limb dressed daily with these. I may mention that previously it had been dressed with some preparation of carbolic-acid. After the chloral-dressing the limb healed rapidly. The ulcer got gradually less, the fœtid discharge disappeared; and when I saw the patient in July last, only a small ulcer remained, and even that gradually diminishing in size, notwithstanding the fact that the boy was daily employed in a large drapery-shop in town, and was unable to give the leg that rest which was necessary, and which I had so much recommended. The boy is now a sailor, and is at present on a voyage to Athens. I also used chloral-solution as an injection into the sacs of large abscesses, and found that it tended much to diminish secretions and make the

parts heal. I found it also a useful lotion for the eye in inflammatory conditions of that organ. It is an excellent application to burns, and very specially where there is a fœtid discharge. I also found it a good application to remove warts from the hands and fingers. I used for this purpose a lotion containing fifteen to twenty grains to the ounce of water, applied by means of lint and gutta-percha. It causes no pain, and the wart speedily becomes smaller, and gradually disappears.

I also used it as a lotion to sore nipples and to inflamed-mucous-membranes. When chloral is applied to an ulcer, a wound, or the interior of an abscess-sac, it causes at first some smarting, but that only lasts for a few minutes, and is soon succeeded by a most agreeable sensation. Patients so treated have frequently told me that soon after the lotion was applied a very agreeable soothing effect was felt in the wound. I believe that in all such cases chloral acts as a local sedative. It produces anæsthesia of the nerves of the part. Wherever there is a wound or ulcer, there is irritability of the nerves of that part; and chloral, by soothing this irritability of the nerves, favors the healing process.

I have frequently used, with good effect, an ointment containing thirty to sixty grains of the hydrate of chloral to the ounce, in eczema and other allied affections. I believe it to be one of the best applications in such diseases; and a medical practitioner lately told me that he had used it with marked benefit as a local application during an attack of erysipelas of the head. Chloral in various forms has been extensively used in the Royal Infirmary of this city by Dr. P. H. Watson, senior surgeon to that institution. He says:

"I have in my wards made use of the chloral-hydrate for fully six months, and find it quite as active as an anti-septic as carbolic-acid or boracic-acid. It approaches nearer to carbolic-acid in its effects than to the boracic-acid, especially in that it is volatile, and thus by its vapor penetrates and surrounds parts to which as a dressing it has been applied with an atmosphere of itself.

"It has a marked advantage over carbolic-acid, in so far that its odor is pleasant, resembling some of the ethereal compounds employed for flavoring purposes. It also is absorbed, and, in being so, deadens pain after an operation."

FETID-FEET.

A very obstinate case of this complaint, in a workman, is reported in the *Bull. de Ther.* by Dr. Ortega. In the manufactory in which he worked he was avoided by his fellow-workmen, and when he entered a room, the window would be opened. He had consulted several physicians, but without success. The epidermis of the sole of the foot was white and mascerated, and there were little ulcerations at the clefts of the toes, and around the nails. M. Ortega advised him to apply compresses, soaked with a solution of chloral, which had the effect of rapidly destroying the smell, and curing the ulcerations.

JANEWAY'S PILLS.

These pills are a favorite prescription of E. G. Janeway, M. D., Professor at the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York, and are composed as follows:

R. Ext.-belladonna..... 3 grains.
Ext.-nucis-vomicæ..... 3 grains.
Res.-podophylli..... 6 grains.
Aloes-socotr..... 12 grains.
Fiat-pilulæ..... 12 grains.

M. They are an excellent laxative or cathartic, and do not gripe.

THE SULPHIDE OF CALCIUM IN ITCH.

Dr. Dolan says, in *Medical Press and Circular:* "An experience of seven years, with over seven hundred cases of pure scabies, has convinced me of the efficacy of the solution of sulphide of calcium in the treatment of scabies, and the satisfactory results obtained by its use induced me to introduce it to the notice of your readers.

"It has the merits of being cleaner, easier of application than the greasy substances usually applied, and if properly used, results in a certain cure within a brief period.

"It is made, as its name implies, from lime and sulphur. The following formula, from many others, may be used:

Flower of sulphur..... 100 parts.
Quicklime..... 200 parts.
Water..... 1,000 parts.

"Boil the whole for some time, allow the liquid to cool, and decant into hermetically-corked bottles.

"It is sold by chemists in the form of a bright-yellow solution, and hence is popularly called golden-lotion.

"Before applying it, my patients are ordered a warm bath, so as to cleanse the body and excite healthy skin-action; they are then painted with the solution and placed in bed in blankets.

"Next morning they present a peculiar appearance, as, owing to the deposit of the sulphur, they are the color of a guinea. The beneficial results are soon manifest. The itching ceases, the vesicles shrivel up, and after another warm bath, the patient may be discharged cured.

"The over-use of this remedy causes troublesome irritation of the skin, and is often a source of anxiety and trouble, until the cause of it is known. It should be at once stopped, and the patient bathed in soda-water, when all ill effects will speedily disappear."

GLYCERINE AS A SOLVENT FOR BORAX.

H. writes to *Druggists' Circular*: "That on making a mixture of glycerine, water, and borax, he was astonished to see that the menstruum was able to hold in solution much larger quantities of the salt than could be taken up by water alone. Being satisfied that the glycerine was the substance to which was due the increased solubility, he made further experiments, and found that a mixture of one drachm of glycerine and three drachms of water, easily dissolves one drachm of borax, or about three times as much as the same quantity of water can hold in solution. He, therefore, proposes this method for making concentrated solutions of borax, such as physicians have repeatedly expressed to him the wish to have. We may remark that the great solubility of borax in glycerine has been known for some years. Klever, in an article on the solvent powers of glycerine, published in 1869, in a Russian pharmaceutical paper, stated that one hundred parts in weight of that liquid can dissolve sixty parts of borax, or more than half its weight. The paper was reprinted in the *Druggists' Circular*, at the time; but somehow or other, that property of glycerine appears, in this country, to have attracted but little attention. The fact, however, is too important to be lost sight of; and we publish the above communication to bring the matter again to the notice of our readers.

CASE ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE ANTAGONISM BETWEEN OPIUM AND BELLADONNA.

Dr. C. O. Wright was hastily summoned to a child, six weeks old, to which eight drops of laudanum had been given by mistake. He arrived within twenty minutes after the administration of the opium, and found the narcotism gradually increasing. Emetics were promptly exhibited, but produced no vomiting. Deglutition soon became impossible. The pupils were firmly contracted. He now sent for a solution, containing 1-120th grain of atropia to the drop, and administered very nearly two drops, subcutaneously. Sinapisms were also applied. Within one-half hour the pupils had dilated to their natural size, and at the end of three hours he left the child safe. By the next day, it had entirely recovered its natural state of health. The doctor had never before seen a case illustrating so positively the therapeutic antagonism of these two agents.—[*Cin. Clinic.*

EXTRACTION OF A LIVING INSECT FROM THE EAR.

The *Archives Medicales Belges* relates the following case: A little girl, three years old, put an insect, "*Vol. bon Dieu*," into her ear. Sharp cries, agitations and convulsive symptoms ensued. Injections of water were made without result. The physician then conceived the idea of asphyxiating the insect by means of chloroform. He dropped four drops of chloroform, upon a small piece of cotton, which he introduced into the ear. Immediately the child ceased crying, and complained no further of any disagreeable sensation; the insect had become asphyxiated. An injection of warm water brought it away dead, and no further trouble ensued.

PICRIC-ACID FOR SORE-NIPPLES.

In an article published in the *Courrier Medical*, Dr. Charrier recommends the use of picric-acid, in solution, as a cure for sore-nipples. The application has the effect of rapidly removing the pain, and checking the morbid secretions. The acid is used in the following manner: It is important to employ the chemically-pure product, perfectly free from soda, and two solutions of different strength are prepared. The first, or *concentrated*,

solution is made of 3 drachms of picric-acid, dissolved in 2 pints of water; and the second, or *weak* solution, only contains 16 grains of acid to the same quantity of water.

To apply the lotions, the nipple is first well cleaned and washed with a fine sponge and luke-warm water; then a very fine camel's hair-pencil, dipped into the concentrated solution, is gently passed over the chapped and inflamed parts. This is done once a day, in the morning; and each time after the child has been suckled, the nipple is immersed during three or four minutes, in a small glass, filled with the weak solution.

After from twelve to twenty-four hours, the sharp pains, experienced when the child is suckled, begin to disappear, and all the red and inflamed parts assume again their natural color. The picric-acid solution extinguishes, as it were, the inflammation on the spot, prevents the lymphangitis from extending further, and, therefore, averts phlegmons and abscesses of the mammæ. Another advantage of the acid is, that it tans the thin epidermis of the breast, rendering it thereby less liable to alterations.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CROUP AND DIPHTHERIA.

Croup is ushered in *by a cough.*

Diphtheria *by a chill.*

Croup is most frequent when there is great humidity in atmosphere and east winds.

Diphtheria does not depend upon changes of the weather.

Croup *is* NOT *contagious.*

Diphtheria most decidedly IS.

Croup comes on *suddenly.*

Diphtheria may be *tardy.*

Croup is known by the *croaking sound.*

Diphtheria is known *by the patches* of membrane on the throat.

Croup must be *promptly relieved.*

Diphtheria *is tardy* in its resolution.

Croup *does not* affect the system.

Diphtheria *is very prostrating.*

Croup occurs *most frequently* in childhood.

Diphtheria occurs *at all ages.*

Croup *is apt to occur often in the same case.*

Diphtheria *may occur* more than once, but the patient *is not so liable to a second* attack.—[Dr. W. S. Stewart, in *Med. Times.*

[For the Brief.]

CHIONANTHUS-VIRGINICA—FRINGE-TREE—OLD--MAN'S BEARD.

BY I. J. M. GOSS, A. M., M. D.

DESCRIPTION.—The chionanthus is a small tree or shrub, growing from eight to twenty-five feet high. The leaves are opposite, oval, oblong, veiny, and smooth; the flowers grow in long, dense panicles; calyx very small; corolla snow-white, consisting of four petals; and bearing a fleshy fruit, or an oval, purple drupe. It grows on sandy and rocky land; and is cultivated for its beautiful white blooms, which appear in May and June, and resemble fringe, which gave it the common name of "Fringe-Tree," by which name it is known by the common people in Georgia.

The bark of the root is the part used, and is thick, of a yellowish-white, or light ash-color, and breaks with a resinous-like fracture. Its taste is bitter, and rather flat and mawkish. Its odor is pungent and peculiar. It yields its virtues to alcohol. No analysis has been made of it. I made a partial analysis of it in the year 1857; and procured from it an oleo-resin, which had the flavor and odor of the bark fully—which I called Chionanthin.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—I called attention to this plant in 1848 or 1849. I was led to investigate its medical properties by having been very promptly cured of a very obstinate attack of jaundice in Augusta, Ga., in the year 1843, while I was attending the lectures in the Medical Department of the University of the State of Georgia. It was first brought to the notice of a young physician of Augusta, Ga., by witnessing a very prompt cure of jaundice in a tailor of that city; and seeing the obstinacy of my case, he recommended me to try it, and as my case had resisted mercurials and all reputed cholagogues then in use, I procured the root, and tinctured it in pure gin, and took it three times a day, in doses of about half an ounce, and it relieved me in some ten days of all traces of jaundice. The sudden cure of my case, and of that of the tailor, impressed my mind so that I determined to give the remedy further trial.

I left the University in the spring of 1844, and commenced practice, and soon had an opportunity to test my new remedy

more thoroughly, as there were several cases of jaundice presented to me for treatment—all of which I very promptly cured with the tincture of chionanthus. And during the late war, there were quite a number of soldiers sent home from York Town, Va., and many cases of jaundice among them, which cases I treated with my old specific, and with the most prompt success. I have used it in a number of cases of hypertrophy of the liver, with like success. It is not cathartic in its action, unless it is taken in over-doses. It has marked tonic effect, and is slightly diuretic. It is a mild alterative, affecting the glandular system, and will salivate in excessive doses. As a tonic and cholagogue, it is a very appropriate remedy in many cases of indigestion, attended with torpid liver. I have often used it in my own case, and always with prompt success. I very frequently combine it with other bitter tonics, as the chelone-glabra, hydrastis, ptelia or columbo. I am informed by the non-professional, that it is anti-arthritic, and has cured rheumatism of an acute or subacute form; but I have not depended on it in that disease. I again present it to the profession as a remedy in jaundice, whether idiopathic or symptomatic. I also recommend it as a tonic to those who are recovering from attacks of protracted disease, where the liver is torpid, and enlarged, and where the digestive system is feeble. It is a specific for jaundice, as much so as quinia is for periodicity.

It is also a mild alterative, and has been used as a remedy in syphilis; but it is a feeble remedy in that disease, but may be used in connection with corydalis, stillingia, and the iodides. I make a saturated tincture of the bark of the root, by adding 8 ounces to 1 pint of pure alcohol; dose, 1 drachm, three or four times a day. It grows very abundantly in some parts of Georgia, and should be tinctured while fresh.

THE USE OF HYPOPHOSPHITES OF LIME AND SODA IN PHTHISIS.

Dr. Charteris, of Glascow, states that he has satisfied himself of the power of the hypophosphites to check the night-sweats of phthisis, even when all treatment of a curative kind was of little avail. They were first used alone, and afterwards combined with glycerine.

[For the Brief.]

ERGOT IN LEUCORRHŒA.

History of patient as follows: Woman, æt. 35 years; married; has three children, the youngest aged 5 months, and nursing. She is rather plethoric, and of an extremely nervous temperament. Has always enjoyed fair health, excepting at the periods of nursing her children, when she always became afflicted with constant mammary-pains and engorgement of the organs, and following this was an obstinate and profuse leucorrhœa, and continuing during the entire period of lactation. On vaginal examination, could only discover slight uterine-engorgement. A host of remedies were prescribed, but no permanent relief afforded. Finally, she was placed upon fluid-extract-ergot, in 30-drop doses, and the breasts supported with an appropriate bandage. In the course of twelve days, the profuse leucorrhœa, with other abnormal symptoms, were entirely arrested, and the mother is now enabled to nurse her child with perfect impunity. The most interesting points presented are, that the above train of symptoms only appeared during the nursing-periods, and at no other time; also, in what manner the ergot acted. Its true *modus operandi*.

L. J. FOGEL, M. D.

CINCINNATI, O., September 27.

[For the Brief.]

EDITOR MEDICAL BRIEF: On 4th of last July, a lad, twelve years of age, by a pistol-shot, wounded the palmer-arch. The rupture was considerable, and bleeding copious. Immediate compression was made, and maintained a number of days, which gave seemingly fair promise of success, but failed. An aneurism formed over the wound, and the usual plan of ligating, supplying vessels, seemed probably necessary. I, however, injected into the sac a strong solution of per.-sulph.-iron, the result being complete occlusion of sufficient distance of the arch, filling the healing of the external parts.

This simple thing is offered for record, that it may sometime, if not always, deter the usual plan of prompt ligation, until this trial is repeated, and if successful, a larger share of normal circulation will be preserved.

J. W. SMITH, M. D.

CLEVELAND, O., Sept 20, 1876.

DYSENTERY.

Dr. Ragland says, in *Va. Med. Monthly:* Holding the view that dysentery is caused by a parasitic poison, impinging locally upon the mucous surface of the large bowel, and that carbolic-acid, internally administered, is capable of destroying the dysenteric-germ, I have devised the following formula:

R. Acid.-carbol. (delq.)	10 drops.
Syr.-rhei.-aromat	1 ounce.
Ol.-limonis	5 drops.
Ol.-sassaf	5 drops.

Mix. Sig. One teaspoonful every two or three hours till relief is obtained.

If tormina and tenesmus are distressing, add laudanum, 10 drops to each dose, until pain is quieted. If the attack is very violent, it will be well to give an enema of starch-water or other emolient, adding thereto laudanum or aqueous-extract of opium, and carbolic-acid, 2 drops. I have had no cases, however, that did not get immediate relief by the use of the above remedy, given by the mouth.

[For the Brief.]

A CASE OF BRIGHT'S DISEASE OF THE KIDNEYS.

BY LUIGI G. DOANE, M. D.

I was called to see R. T., age 60; born in Ireland; intemperate in his habits; by occupation a policeman. He presented the following symptoms: The skin was dry and feverish, pulse irregular, and gave 98 deg. pulsations per minute; temperature, 104 degs. F.; abdomen, dropsical, and, upon percussion, fluctuating; extremities (lower), swollen and dropsical; he had no appetite; vomited matter, resembling blood; could not sleep, and his urine gave upon the addition of nitric-acid and heat albumen. The microscope showed urea in excess. I recommended warm baths night and morning, compound cathartic pill night and morning, to establish regularity of bowels; spts.-nitros-ætheris, teaspoonful-doses, in a wine-glass of water, four times a day; fluid-extract-ergot, teaspoonful-doses, twice a day, to be increased to three times a day, in case vomiting of blood continued. Upon this treatment, he became much improved; the dropsy in abdomen and lower extremities disappeared at the

expiration of twenty-one days. Thinking himself cured, he went out; and in a day or two a relapse took place, with greatly augmented symptoms. I resorted to the same treatment, substituting fluid-extract of cannibis-indica, four times a day, with admirable success for some time; when he took to drinking the poorest kind of liquors, and gradually wasted away, dying in a comatose state, one year from the time I first saw him. There was probably cirrhosis of the liver, as I could account for the vomiting in no other way, there being no signs of aneurismal-sac upon auscultation, and pressure over the stomach gave no pain, as it would in gastritis or ulceration of that organ.

I cannot too strongly recommend cannibis-indica in dropsical diseases, and hope some of my brother-physicians will give it a trial. Tapping, by means of the catheter, hypodermic-syringe or aspirator, is of little use in this disease; and if resorted to, should be only as a last resort to save life.

CHOREA.

Dr. Rodolphi having had ample opportunity of treating chorea at the Brescia Hospital, and trying a great variety of remedies, asserts that the muriate of lime is the best. He precedes its employment by a purgative. When no cerebral-hyperæmia is present, he then begins with the muriate, giving five grains three times a day. Improvement commences at once, and the cure is completed in one or two weeks. An addition of ¼ grain-extract belladonna, to the dose, augments its efficacy.—[*Gazette Medical, Lombard.*

Dr. W. A. Hammond mentions two cases of chorea, treated successfully by him, with sulphate of manganese, after the failure of other remedies. One girl, fourteen years old, took five grains three times a day; the other, a boy of fifteen, used the iodized cod-liver-oil in addition.

[For the Brief.]

PROF. BELL'S BITTERS.

R. Tinct-cinchona-comp..... 1 ounce.
Tinct.-gentian-comp..... 1 ounce.
Tinct.-colombo-comp..... 1 ounce.
M. One teaspoonful three times a day in a wine-glass of whisky.

L. G. Doane, M. D.

BROMOHYDRATE OF QUINIA.

This salt has special properties resulting from its composition. More soluble and containing more of the alkaloid than the sulphate, it possesses all the properties of this in a less dose, and differs from it in the want of quinic intoxication and the nervous sedation following its use. It is, therefore, specially indicated by reason of these properties, in the treatment of congestive and febrile affections of the nervous system, neuritic-neuralgia, irritative neuroses, encephalic-hyperemia, etc. It is likewise very efficacious in visceral or artificial fluxions, rheumatismal, gouty, symptomatic-fevers, etc. The dose is from 6 to 15 grains per day, in doses of 2 or 3 grains, in pills or otherwise, on account of its solubility. It may be safely used in hypodermic injections; 3 grains, equal to 4½ grains of the sulphate, being injected under the skin, occasion neither redness nor swelling.—[*Jour. de Ther.*

BROMIDE OF ARSENIC IN THE TREATMENT OF EPILEPSY.

Dr. Th. Clemens, of Frankfort-on-the-Main, has employed bromide of arsenic for twenty years, in the treatment of diseases of the nervous system, and especially of epilepsy, and claims that he has obtained astonishing results with it. He uses the liquor-arsenic.-bromat., and gives one or two drops in a glass of water once, or, if necessary, twice daily. These minute doses may be given for months, and even years, without producing the usual unpleasant effects of a long-continued arsenical course. All his cases of epilepsy have been markedly relieved and improved by this remedy; but in only two cases has it produced a complete cure. In many cases of incurable epilepsy, complicated with idiocy and deformities of the skull, the fits were reduced in number, from twenty in the twenty-four hours, to four, or even two, a result that has been obtained by no other treatment. In connection with the bromide of arsenic, an almost exclusively meat diet is advised. The patients should be as much as possible in the open air in the daytime, and their windows should be kept open at night. Unlike bromide of potassium, this remedy does not require to be given in increasing doses, and, instead of interfering with digestion, improves the nutrition and strength.

SMOKING BELLADONNA IN ASTHMA.

Dr. Reeves states that smoke, derived from the leaves of belladonna, possesses much more power in cutting short an attack of asthma than that from stramonium. A long pipe is the best means of smoking them, the patient being instructed to draw the smoke deep into the chest. If, when the attack is at its hight, he has not the power of doing this, the leaves may be placed in a saucer, containing lighted charcoal or wood-ashes, which should be placed on a chair, in front of the patient; this chair, as well as his own, being covered with a large sheet, so as to confine the fumes before the leaves are put on the hot charcoal. From two and a half to five grains of the leaves are sufficient, when smoked, and from five to twenty grains, when burned. If the smoke is drawn deeply into the chest, the relief is immediate, expectoration of phlegm taking place. It is in the spasmodic form of asthma, where there is little or no expectoration, that the greatest relief is obtained; for, when the tubes are loaded with mucus, the smoke cannot get access to their muscular tissue. The relief is most marked, when the remedy is used soon after the paroxysm has commenced, before the spasm prevents access of air to the smaller tubes and air-cells. Tobacco-smokers do not receive the same amount of relief as others. Temporary headache, of a throbbing character, may be produced, if the leaves are used too freely.—[*Melbourne Medical Record.*

THE TREATMENT OF CANCER.

An English journal states that in the University College Hospital, London, in cancer cases, the application of stramonium-ointment was found to give great relief to pain. Mr. Henry Morris had good results in a severe case of epithelioma, involving nearly half the scalp, with "Fell's Paste" (chloride of zinc, flour, and liquor-opii-sedativus, sufficient to form a paste). The first application produced an eschar, which was cut through, so that the remedy could be applied deeper, and applications having been made daily, or on alternate days, for about a month, the whole mass came away, leaving the bone exposed; finally, a thin sheet of this exfoliated, the wound healed, and the patient has remained well for several months since.

BROMIDE OF IRON IN CHOREA.

Dr. Potter says: "I know of no specific for chorea. No remedy has been discovered which will uniformly cure recent attacks, to say nothing of chronic cases of the disease. Twenty years ago my youngest daughter had chorea, and several subsequent recurrences of it. This 'home-trouble' stimulated me to a thorough review of the subject, and a more careful observation of the best method of treatment.

"One of the most efficient remedies I have employed is the bromide of iron for the treatment of chorea. For a child of five years old, I commence with five grains every eight hours, increasing the dose daily up to twenty grains. The best mode of administering is in plain sirup or effervescing powder. It will soon quiet the nervous excitement, and afford rest to the patient."—[*A. M. Journal.*

FOREIGN BODIES IN THE EAR.

In the removal of foreign bodies from the ears of children, it is specially important to have recourse to an anæsthetic. In one case, a child had introduced a piece of gravel into the meatus, and in the attempt at removal, had driven it farther and farther in. The impaction was so great that a strong current of water had no effect on it. Previous to the use of the anæsthetic, any attempts at removal were accompanied by the struggles of the child. After being thoroughly anæsthetized, a small forceps was introduced, and by strong traction, the pebble was removed. Had the attempt been persevered in, without the aid of the anæsthetic, injury would probably have resulted to the middle ear, inasmuch as the child was absolutely uncontrollable.

HYDRATE OF CHLORAL IN PUERPERAL-CONVULSIONS.

Dr. Chouppe, having had the opportunity of observing carefully a considerable number of cases of puerperal-convulsions, has come to the conclusion that, of all the means we possess, the hydrate is the most reliable for treating this disease. In twelve cases, in which it was alone employed, the termination was successful, although in some of these the state of things seemed desperate when it was commenced. He thinks, indeed, that it should be resorted to even before the disease becomes

confirmed—whenever the woman, exhibiting albuminuria and œdema, complains of headache, singing in the ears, hallucinations of vision, restlessness, cramps or vague pains in the limbs, etc. When there is trismus present, it should be given in enemata, which have also the great advantage of being able to be given during the paroxysm. The doses will vary according to the tolerance of the patients and the severity of the paroxysms; but it is necessary to commence with a pretty strong one (especially if the paroxysms are violent and close upon each other), in order to make a powerful and quick impression. After a calm has been obtained, and if the attacks do not recur, some smaller doses may be given during the next twenty-four hours or so; but if the attacks recur, larger doses must again be resorted to, until the paroxysms have completely ceased. In an enema, we may always begin with thirty grains, repeating this at the end of ten minutes; and by the mouth, at least forty-five grains should be given at once, fifteen grains being repeated every quarter of an hour. In a violent attack, it may even be requisite to resort to hypodermic or intravenous-injection. In all cases, it is of importance to get at least sixty grains rapidly taken, and to prolong the use of the chloral for a tolerably long time after the cessation of the convulsions.—[*Gazette Med.*

To Editor of Medical Brief—*Dear Sir:* A case of exstrophy of the bladder came under my care a few weeks since. The mother, Mrs. T. F., is 41 years old, and mother of eleven children, six of whom are living, and well-developed. She was delivered, August 18th, of a large, healthy, male-child, with the following malformation: The only sign of a penis is the lower transverse third of the glans, half inch long, with frenum. Scrotum and testicles normal. Directly above rudimentary penis is the posterium-walls of bladder, 1¼ inch in diameter, projecting half an inch. On either side of bladder, ¾ of an inch apart, are the orifices of the ureters, from which urine is constantly dribbling; bones of pelvis normal; double inguinal hernia; presenting-surface of bladder has the appearance of a granulating surface, bleeding, when touched, or when child cries.

Respectfully, C. R. Parke, M. D.

Bloomington, Ill., October 13, 1876.

CASES OF DIPHTHERIA.

BY F. P. MANN, M. D.

I have recently employed in diphtheria liquor-potassæ, heated to about 150°, or as hot as it could be taken into the mouth without pain. This was applied to the exudation by means of an ordinary probang, covered with a thin layer of cotton-wool, the cotton being renewed after each application to avoid reinnoculation by germinal-matter possibly adhering to the cotton, and for the sake of cleanliness. The solution was applied three times during the day; and in the interval, the patient, if old enough, was made to gargle the throat every hour with liquor-potassæ, diluted with an equal quantity of hot-water, or, where the mouth was unusually sensitive, one part to three of water, at as high a temperature as could be borne without pain. Where special objection was made to the use of the probang, the gargle alone was employed. The ages of the patients ranged from six to forty-five years. In every case, after the second and third day, I found the false membrane either detached or easily separated from the mucous-surface by the probang, sometimes aided by common dressing-forceps. The deeply-inflamed mucous-membrane, thus fairly exposed, was then treated by use of the following gargle:

Hydrarg.-bi-chloridi	3 grains.
Acid-hydroch	10 drops.
Aqua	6 ounces.
Syrup-lemon	2 ounces.

This was continued until the inflammation was controlled, and all attempts at renewal of diphtheritic-deposit suppressed, when the common sulph.-zinc-gargle, twenty grains to the ounce, with the addition of a little spirit-camph., completed the local treatment. The internal remedies used were three-grain-doses quiniæ-sulph. in solution every four hours, with or without tinct.-ferri-chlorid. The cases were accompanied by the usual constitutional symptoms, and terminated favorably. It is useless to theorize upon the etiology of diphtheria in the absence of demonstrable facts. Microscopists agree that there are no positively distinct characteristics, which appertain to diphtheritic-deposit; nevertheless, there is present in all cases a more or less transparent and very viscid substance, which presents, under a ¼ objective astriated appearance, entangling mucous-corpuscles

and scaly-epithelium from the mouth, and *transparent-granular, round or oval particles*, which bear a certain resemblance to the germinal-matter liberated from cells of penicillium-glaucum. Now, it would appear that the potash dissolves, perhaps decomposes, the viscid-substances which glue, so to speak, the diphtheritic-exudation to the mucous-membrane, and may also play the part of nidus for the reception of germinal-matter. Another point that would seem to favor this view is, that the secretion from the mouth and fauces in the commencement of the disease is uniformly abnormally acid; this I have proved by careful observation of many cases. It is also probable that the solution destroys the germs themselves, as it immediately kills the germs of odium-albicans and penicillium, which I have witnessed in repeated experiments made after planting the above germs upon various substances under favorable conditions for rapid propagation. However this may be, the development of false membrane ceases after a thorough application of the alkaline solution. In the case of very young children, the great difficulty experienced in making any application to the mouth or fauces seriously interferes with the success of any treatment. As a prophylactic I feel certain that a weaker solution, with or without the addition of a suitable quantity of salicylic-acid, will be found worth a fair trial.—[*New York Medical Journal.*

GARGARISMA-ACIDI-TANNICI-ET-GALLICI.

R. Tannic-acid ..... 360 grains.
Gallic-acid ..... 120 grains.
Water ..... 1 fluid-ounce.
Mix.

Use—This preparation is most useful for arresting hemorrhage from the uvula or tonsils after excision: the patient should be directed to slowly sip the mixture, or hold it passively in the mouth till the hemorrhage is stopped.

WINE OF TAR.

Mr. Chas. B. Heinitsch, of Lancaster, Pa., recommends to prepare this, either by triturating 1½ troy oz. of tar with ½ troy oz. of magnesium-carbonate and 1 pint of sherry-wine, and afterwards filtering; or by adding 8 troy oz. of tar to 3 pints of beer, and separating the clear solution from the sediment after twenty-four hours.

LICHEN.

Dr. Yandell says, in the Louisville *Medical News*: "*Lichen* consists of numerous pointed papules, small and red, attended by severe itching, and occurring in clusters or flocks. After a time, the papules may, under treatment or in their natural course, disappear, leaving a dull-red, rough and thickened skin, which eventually assumes its natural character. 'Dry itch' is the popular name for lichen. It is called lichen from its fancied resemblance to some of the lichens or mosses on trees. Itching is the most troublesome symptom of lichen, though its disfigurement of the skin is no trifling matter. The wrist, neck and thighs are its favorite locations, though it is found on the face and elsewhere. Locally, anodynes and astringent-ointments are called for by the itching, and aconite, carbolic-acid and hydrocyanic-acid are often efficaciously combined for this purpose in an ointment:

R. Tannin	10	grains.
Morphine	4	grains.
Dilute hydrocyanic-acid	½	drachm.
Carbolic-acid	10	grains.
Ext.-aconite	10	grains.
Cold-cream	1	ounce.

Mix thoroughly, and apply to the eruption.

"This is a most excellent remedy for severe itching. Acute-lichen is usually relieved by quinine, and, according to my experience, is generally of malarial origin. Chronic-lichen may be strumous. Bad living, lack of cleanliness, and any debilitating conditions may develope the disease. Iron is always called for, and sometimes cod-liver-oil.

PREVENTION OF MISCARRIAGE BY HYPODERMIC INJECTIONS OF MORPHIA.

Dr. A. B. Isham, of Cincinnati, reports three cases of successful treatment by this plan, and holds that the manner of administration has been the cause of the small measure of success obtained by other practitioners; asserts that medicaments introduced into the rectum act in a very uncertain manner, and it is difficult to administer them by the mouth when the patient is vomiting, but the hypodermic-injections obviate all these difficulties. He considers it useful in any case of threatened action.—[*Louisville Med. News.*

THE PREVENTION OF POST-PARTUM HEMORRHAGE.

Dr. Lyons says, in *Medical and Surgical Reporter:* "A short sentence uttered by Dr. Fitch, during a discussion of hemorrhage, at a session of the Obstetric Section of the American Medical Association, has very much occupied my thoughts since reading said discussion. The sentence was composed of only four words: 'Prevent hemorrhage by anticipation.' In former years, I was very much annoyed, and frequently much alarmed, by after-hemorrhage; but for the past fifteen years I cannot call to mind a case in which I have been alarmed, or even annoyed by it, and simply because I always aim to prevent by anticipation. My plan has been this: As soon as the child is born, before I proceed to remove the secundines, I place my patient in a horizontal position, removing everything from under the head, and placing it at least on a plane with the body; or, if any difference, a little lower. I generally let my patient remain in this position for one and-a-half to three hours, depending upon circumstances; then I direct the head to be raised gradually, by the addition of a small pillow at a time, until she has recovered a comfortable position. By this means, I think I have been able to 'prevent hemorrhage by anticipation,' most successfully."

[For the Brief.]

EPILEPSY.

I have found the following to be the best prescription for epilepsy:

R. Bromide-potass	½	ounce.
Bromide-ammonium	1	drachm.
Bicarb.-potass	½	drachm.
Tinct.-scutellaria	2	ounces.
Tinct.-macrotys	1½	ounce.
Tinct.-card.-comp	½	ounce.

M. Teaspoonful, three times a day, before meals.

DON ROY, M. D.

INTERMITTENT-FEVER.

Dr. Washington says: "Liquor-persulphate of iron, in doses of from 6 to 15 drops, every four or six hours, has been successfully used in cases of intermittents, in which quinine failed."

MONOBROMIDE OF CAMPHOR.

Dr. Goss says, in *Medical and Surgical Reporter*, that monobromide of camphor is a very positive remedy in chordee, and should be given in small doses, say, one or two grains every hour, until relief is obtained—one or two doses generally giving relief. In nymphomania, we have no remedy equal to this compound salt of camphor and bromine. In spermatorrhœa, with nocturnal emissions and amorous dreams, it is one of our most positive remedies; and for those diseases, peculiar to masturbators, it may be given in doses of three or four grains, at bed-time; and, if it is an old case, it may be given three times a day, for several days, until the brain is sufficiently impressed by it.

In those cases of cerebral-anæmia, that occur in those who are excessive in their indulgence of the virile passions, the bromide of camphor is a positive remedy, given in doses of four or five grains, three times a day, until sleep is produced, and the nervous system becomes normal. In cases of debility, where there is coldness of the extremities, from want of force in the heart, three or four-grain doses, three times a day, will be found to equalize the circulation. It impresses the cerebro-spinal system, and lessens any preternatural excitement of it, as paralysis-agitans, called shaking-palsy. It is also a very prompt remedy for nocturnal incontinence of urine, in young and old; and should be given to adults in six-grain doses, at bed-time, and to children, in one or two-grain doses, according to age.

MISTURA-STOMACHICA.

R. Gentian-root, sliced.....90 grains.
Bitter-orange-peel, bruised.....30 grains.
Rhubarb-root, sliced.....20 grains.
Ginger-root, sliced.....15 grains.
Boiling-water..... 1 pint.

Infuse for two hours and strain.

Dose, one to two fluid-ounces.—[*London Hospital Pharmacopœia.*

MISTURA-POTASSÆ-CITRATIS.

R. Citrate of potash.....360 grains.
Syrup..... 6 fluid-drs.
Water.....to 12 fluid-ozs.

Mix. Dose, one fluid-ounce; useful in acid-irritation of bladder.

[For the Brief.]

USTILAGO-MYDIS—(MAIZE-SMUT.)

BY I. J. M. GOSS, A. M., M. D.

Ustilago-mydis is the parasitic fungus that is found growing upon Indian corn, as ergot does upon rye. Its medical history is very meager. It was mentioned by Prof. Tulley, who says: "It is probably by its abortifacient power that it causes the eggs of fowls to extrude before there has been time for the shell to be formed." It has been found by chemical analysis to contain a large percentage of ergotin. It is not identical with ergot, however, for we cannot always substitute the one for the other. Ustilago probably will not prove as powerful as ergot in causing contractions of the uterus in labor; at least, it has not yet been sufficiently tested in that way, to establish the proof of its equal-power as an abortifacient; but, in passive-hemorrhages, the ustilago has proved to be equal, if not superior, to ergot.

Its sphere of action seems to be the generative organs, the skin and analogous structures (the hair, nails and teeth), the vessels and tissues of the generative organs specially. It seems to act upon the spinal-cord in a similar manner to ergot, but not so intensely. It affects the trophic nerve-cells in a special way, when given in large doses.

I had a young cow that fed in a pasture where there was a large quantity of this fungus upon the grass, as well as on the corn, and she ate freely of it through the day, and returned at evening, apparently as well as usual; but next morning was found lying down, with her nose resting on the ground in a profound stupor, from which she could not be aroused, and so remained until sunset that evening; when, finding that she would never recover from the effects of the ustilago, I had her killed, and immediately opened the head, and examined the brain, which was filled with dark-blood; the meninges, pons-varoli, and dura-mater, were filled with dark-blood also, showing a deeply-congested state of the brain and its membranes.

I have never given it in a case of tardy-labor, but have used it in several cases of menorrhægia, of rather the passive character; and it has proved very efficient in such cases. It is a valuable remedy, in cases of passive-congestion of the uterus and ovaries. Doubtless, the ustilago will prove a very efficient remedy, in

small doses, given for some time. In cases, where, for many days, there has been a slow, but persistent oozing of dark-blood, with small coagulas, and the uterus is enlarged, the cervix tumified, and the os-uteri is dilated, swollen and flabby, indicating congestion and inertia of the whole organ, ustilago will act with most gratifying promptness; it not only controls the hemorrhage, but also corrects the pathological condition upon which the hemorrhage depends. In cases of passive-hemorrhage, followed by an offensive leucorrhœal discharge in the interval, ustilago will often arrest the hemorrhage and the leucorrhœa. Dysmenorrhœa, especially the pseudo-membraneous variety, has often yielded to this remedy. It is also a prompt remedy for premature, profuse and long-continued menses, from passive-congestion (atony) of the uterus. I am now treating a case in a girl only thirteen years old, whose menses made their appearance, some two months ago; and the first show was only moderate, the second quite profuse, but yielded to 5-drop doses of cannabis-indica every three hours; but the third attack, which came on in two weeks after the second, resisted the cannabis, and is now yielding to oil of erigeron and ustilago, though the discharge was unusually profuse, and readily coagulated. I usually give the ustilago in the form of a saturated tincture of the freshly-matured fungus, or triturated article. The dose of the tincture is five or ten drops, according to the indications. If there is great inertia of the uterus, it may be given in doses of fifteen or twenty drops every three hours. It is necessary to have a pure article, or, like ergot, it is inert, as it soon loses its power. It should be gathered before the corn is fully hard, or before it is ready for gathering and housing. I triturate 1 gr. to 9 grs. of sugar of milk. Dose of this, 1 to 5 grs.

CORROSIVE-LINIMENT.

Corrosive-sublimate	1 ounce.
Camphor	1 ounce.
Oil of turpentine	1 pint.

Powder the sublimate very finely, and gradually add the turpentine, with constant trituration, in a mortar. Pour the mixture into a bottle, add the camphor, powdered, and mix well. The liniment must be shaken before it is used. It is employed for spavin, ring-bone, and almost all sorts of cuts, bruises, and ailments of horses. It is applied externally only of course.

[For the Brief.]

An article in your journal called to memory a case occurring in my practice some years ago, which case may not be devoid of interest to report at this time:

A boy, aged eight years, was presented with deafness. The symptoms caused an examination with an ordinary tubelar speculum and sunlight, when the meatus was found occluded. Questions elicited nothing from the mother of the child. When I told her that the duct of ear was obstructed, she could recollect no cause for occlusion. The use of a pair of strabismus-forceps removed a "cow-pea" from each ear. She then recollected an ineffectual effort having been made by Dr. ——, near Shreveport, La., *seven years* previously, for removal of cause of trouble. Glycerine and water for short time, and hearing was normal. The peas resembled parched-pinders. They were saturated with cerumen; and reminded one of that common article, for sale in R. R. towns. A perfect restoration of hearing was consequent upon removal of the foreign substance and subsequent cleansing of the cars.

E. J. Beall, M. D.

[For the Brief.]

HYDROPHOBIA.

New York, November 13, 1876.

Editor Medical Brief—*Dear Sir:* Chief among the fatal diseases which have thus far baffled the skill of the most expert and experienced members of our profession, comes that terrible and mysterious scourge, hydrophobia. Many cases are annually reported; but the termination of each is the same—death. Thus the public have come to believe that hydrophobia is incurable, and once stricken, the victim gives up all hope. Therefore, believing that good may come of it, I send you the subjoined account of a case which came under my treatment, and which terminated in a most complete recovery.

The case was brought to my notice about three weeks after the bite took place. The patient, Philip Loftus, living in Cherry street, No. 83. When I arrived at the bedside, the boy was laboring under the most violent convulsions, and with all the symptoms of the terrible disease. The case appeared so exceedingly grave that I was unwilling to proceed with treatment

without the co-operation of another physician. Accordingly, I at once secured the attendance of three brother-practitioners, who at once confirmed my diagnosis, and who were inclined to treat the case as hopeless. Nevertheless, having given years of study to the subject, I determined on the following course of treatment:

After having administered a warm-bath, I caused cold applications to be made along the region of the spine; then doses of hydrate of chloral and bromide of ammonia, with opium-suppositories, every three hours. After the first dose, the spasms were relieved, and a deep sleep of several hours' duration ensued. Upon awakening, the spasms returned with their former severity, deglutition becoming so difficult that it was with the utmost difficulty that I succeeded in administering the remedies used. Again the system yielded to the action of the medicine, with a marked general improvement. This course of treatment I persisted in until the recovery of my patient, which was rapid and complete; and he is to-day as healthy a lad as lives. I submit the above case, with the hope that it may be of benefit to the profession, and through it, the public at large.

Truly, your obedient servant,

DAVID MCNAIR, M. D.

ON THE QUANTITY OF ACACIA NECESSARY TO EMULSIFY FIXED OR VOLATILE-OILS.

Mr. E. Gregory, of Lindsay, Ontario, after reviewing the various processes laid down in standard works, or proposed by different authorities, finds the best proportion to be: 1 part of acacia to 2 parts of oil, and 1½ part of water, which is to be added at once. Such an emulsion is more rapidly prepared, looks better, and keeps longer than any other.

AQUA-ACIDI-LACTICI.

R. Lactic-acid..... 3½ fluid-drs.
Distilled-water.....10 fluid-ounces.

Mix.

USE—This remedy has been found of great service in diphtheria: it appears to have the effect of dissolving the membraneous-exudation.

SULPHUROUS-ACID AS AN ANTI-SEPTIC.

Balfour strongly recommends (*Edinburgh Medical Journal*) sulphurous-acid wash as a valuable anti-septic for the use of the country-practitioner, who may be called on at any moment to operate in slight cases without any assistance, and to perform a capital operation with such aid as may on the spur of the moment be available. He says he has used it "for many years with great satisfaction in all cases of factory accidents, cuts, and lately in a case of amputation at the shoulder-joint. In the proportion of one in twelve of water, I find that it at once alleviates pain, minimizes suppuration, is easily applied, and facilitates dressing the wound, while it costs almost nothing. When the fingers are the parts injured, I have a large teacup filled with the wash put by the patient's side, and into this the injured part, covered with the thinnest rag to be had, is dipped as often as desired. Should the injured part be the hand or any other part of the body, it is supported on a pillow, covered with gutta-percha-tissue or oil-skin, and the wash is applied by means of a little tow, which is allowed to remain in the cup."

BISMUTH IN SKIN-DISEASE.

To alleviate the intense itching and irritation which accompany chronic-eczema and other forms of skin-disease, apply an ointment containing half a drachm of sub-nitrate of bismuth to an ounce of simple-ointment, rubbed up with a little spirits of wine.—[*Medical Weekly.*

LOCAL TREATMENT OF BURNS.

Of all local applications, in the experience of the writer, iodoform, prepared with extract of conium and spermaceti-ointment, with a small portion of carbolic-acid, appears to meet the several indications best.

This remedy is also an excellent promotive of healthy action and of the healing process. I have experimented with iodoform-ointment in these cases repeatedly, and always with the same pleasant result. The use of this preparation has another advantage: it renders the constant use of anodynes unnecessary. The following formula has been found the best:

R. Iodoform	2	drachms.
Unguent.-cetacei	1	ounce.
Ex.-conii	1½	drachm.
Acid-carbol.	10	drops.

This ointment is spread twice daily on soft linen, and applied over the inflamed surface, and then enveloped in oiled-silk. No other dressing is necessary. The only objection to the use of this remedy is its peculiar odor. In those cases of burns, attended with great dryness of surface from destruction of vitality and want of exhalation, the wound, before being covered with the iodoform-ointment, should be coated over with the common linimentum-calcis. This affords a soft and moist dressing, which in nowise interferes with the action of the iodoform. [*Philadelphia Medical Times.*

DIABETES-MELLITUS—A CASE AND ITS TREATMENT.

Dr. Cranmer, in *Med. and Surg. Reporter*, says: Mr. A. B. came to my office on March 21st, of the present year, suffering from the above-mentioned disease. He was a dark, sallow-complexioned young man, 22 years of age, and about six feet in hight, well educated, very irritable, and the possessor of a good set of natural and undecayed teeth. Previous to his sickness, he was about graduating from his university; he had, therefore, been reading for many hours daily. The following conversation ensued:

Question. At what time did your present disease show itself sufficiently to make itself felt? *Answer.* I first noticed something was wrong in the August of 1875, though probably it was about me a long time before.

Q. When did treatment commence? *A.* On the first of October, 1875.

Q. Do you know what treatment was adopted? *A.* Opium and creasote were administered, and I also took hot-baths occasionally. My diet consisted of milk, meat, and dried-toast.

Q. What amount of urine did you pass in twenty-four hours, for the first month? *A.* I should estimate the lowest quantity to be four gallons, and the highest, during the same time, six gallons. My thirst was unquenchable during the first six weeks, and I drank large quantities of water and other fluids.

Q. Did you have to rise frequently during the night? *A.* Yes; sometimes every hour.

Q. What was your weight previous to your sickness? *A.* One hundred and eighty pounds.

Q. How much do you weigh now? *A.* One hundred and sixteen pounds.

Q. When did you commence to lose flesh? *A.* In the August of 1875.

Q. You have been under treatment in this village, have you not? *A.* Yes; but the treatment consisted chiefly in electricity, hot-baths, glycerine internally, with some tonic, the nature of which I do not know.

Q. Do you feel better for such treatment? *A.* None whatever; in fact, I am getting much worse.

This was on March 21st. I obtained a specimen of urine sufficient for all testing purposes, and took the specific gravity, which was 1.044. I then examined for sugar, using the following tests: Trommer's copper-test, the potash-test, and later on, I used the yeast-test; in a very short time, the characteristics of sugar presented themselves.

Some few weeks before I saw this case, I had read in the *Med. and Surg. Reporter*, a passing notice to the effect that Dr. Sidney Ringer, of University College, London, had treated several cases of diabetes with marked success, using sulphide of calcium, grain one-eighth, three times a day. I determined Mr. A. B. should give the remedy a fair trial, and prepared twelve powders of the desired drug, giving the exact dose as stated above. I required my patient to measure his urine every twenty-four hours, and to bring some to my office every day, which he did, with the following results:

March 23, Evening, specific gravity, 1.044; amount passed, twelve quarts.

24, Evening, specific gravity, 1.040; total amount, twelve and a half quarts; up five times from 8 A. M. to 7 P. M; appetite good; is using washed, dried and baked bran-bread, made with eggs.

25th, Specific gravity, 1.040; passed seven quarts and half a pint.

The yeast-test denoted thirty-one grains of sugar to each fluid-ounce. This test was repeated twice, with almost identical results. Continued treatment; but increased the dose of calcium-sulphide to one-sixth of a grain. I also impressed upon

the mind of my patient the absolute necessity of abstaining from all amylaceous food. I had sent to Messrs. McKesson & Robbins, of Fulton street, New York, to prepare for my patient fifty pounds of bran, as directed by Mr. Campton, and greatly to their credit be it said, they returned me a very nicely-prepared flour, strictly as ordered, and from which bread was made according to directions given in Tanner's Practice, page 807, formula 9. On the 26th, evening, he had passed only two and three-quarter gallons in the twenty-four hours, with a specific gravity of 1.038.

27th, Specific gravity, 1.040; up twice during the night; quantity passed, a trifle under two gallons; appetite voracious, and thinks he does not feel so languid.

28th, Seven quarts and half a pint; specific gravity, 1.036; up only once during the night, and feels better for the long sleep.

29th, Yesterday's urine denoted much less sugar than usual. To-day's urine, specific gravity, 1.036; quantity not taken.

30th, Walked two miles to-day; feels much better and stronger; ate fish, mutton, and drank mutton-broth for dinner; has a great desire to eat apples, which I interdict; urine, to my surprise, marked 1.030; quantity passed, four quarts; skin has been moist nearly all day, since the walk.

31st, Quantity passed, seven quarts; specific gravity, 1.032; up twice during the night.

April 1st, Had a slight cold, and did not report.

2d, Better in every respect; had company to-day, and did not measure urine.

3d, Specific gravity of urine, 1.034; about three quarts; slept well.

4th, Specific gravity, 1.030; passed this day less than at any time since his sickness.

5th, No report.

6th, Repeat powders, and increase to half a grain; specific gravity of urine, 1.030; quantity less than usual; no trace of sugar to-day; feels all right; slept well all night. From this date to the 22d instant, the patient continued to improve in appearance; had gained over twenty-five pounds in weight; did not require to get up at all during the night; thought himself able to resume his studies, and proposed returning eastward in a few days; recommended to continue both powders and diet.

To-day, October 13th, he writes me, and says, in reference to his case: "I now weigh 160 pounds; have resumed my employment; that is, teaching and studying, but only do a small amount of labor in comparison with that done in health; and I deem it proper to say that the minutest quantity of amylaceous food produces a change in my condition as quickly as when I was lowest with the disease. I now live on diet as given by the Hon. C. P. Smith, of Brooklyn, with the exception of bran-bread, which I hold to yet."

The above case is interesting, inasmuch as the patient had received no benefit from any treatment adopted previous to taking the calcium-sulphide; yet he began, and continued, to show marked improvement from the moment the above drug was administered. I would, therefore, ask the profession at large to give the remedy an extended trial in any case coming under their care; and if the patient be kept upon a proper diet, the probabilities are, he or she may be benefited, if not cured. I omitted to mention that my patient took a hot-bath three times a week while under my care.

MISTURA-FERRI-SULPHATIS-APERIENS.

R. Sulphate of iron..... 24 grains.
Sulphate of magnesia.....720 grains.
Diluted-sulphuric-acid..... 1 fl.-dr.
Peppermint-water.....to 12 fl.-ozs.

Mix. Dose, one fluid-ounce.

CHLORAL IN ULCERS.

Dr. Wright says: "I find nothing so valuable in the treatment of old, indolent ulcers as a local application of a solution of hydrate of chloral. Among the old soldiers of our home we have a great variety of such cases; and I find nothing improves their condition better and more rapidly than the above."

TO MAKE LEECHES BITE.

The *Le Progres Medical* advises, in order to make a leech bite readily, to place it in a glass containing cold water, to wash the skin of the patient with warm water, and apply the glass containing the leech at once.

TREATMENT OF NOCTURNAL INCONTINENCE OF URINE.

Dr. Wm. A. Hammond, in Ohio *Med. and Surg. Journal*, says: I have found the following plan of treatment so efficacious that, though there are others which are at times followed by success, I have for several years past adopted it exclusively:

1. Supposing the patient, as is generally the case, to be a child, the bladder should be emptied on going to bed, and then, two or three times afterwards, the patient should be taken up and again made to urinate.

2. Sleeping on the back should be prevented. The prone position is one which, of all others, increases the amount of blood in the cord, and hence augments its irritability.

3. The following prescription should be given for several months—three or four at least; if stopped sooner, the affection is liable to return: R. Zinci bromidi, ½ ounce; ergot-ext.-fl., 4 ounces. M. ft. sol. Dose, ten drops, three times a day; increased, five drops, every month. Thus, for the first month, ten drops are taken three times a day; for the second month, fifteen drops, three times a day; for the third, twenty drops, and so on. It is preferably administered after meals, being less apt then to excite nausea or vomiting. Should either of these symptoms prove troublesome, the ensuing two or three doses may be somewhat smaller.

Children of from four to twelve years of age can take the foregoing quantities without disturbance of the general health; and even for adults, it is not often necessary to increase them, except in the way of augmenting the dose by five drops every two weeks instead of every month.

It will almost invariably be found that by these means the incontinence of urine is cured, and the general health of the patient much improved; but occasionally a case is met with in which the bromide of zinc is not well tolerated. It proves irritating to the stomach, and induces a peculiar cathaxia, characterized by emaciation, paleness of the complexion, a dull expression of the face, dryness and roughness of the skin, obstinate constipation, etc. In such instances, the bromide of iron may be substituted for the zinc compound with advantage. It should be given in the form of a sirup (ferri-bromidi, 1 ounce; sirupus-simplicis, 6 ounces), in doses beginning with five grains three times a day; gradually increased to fifteen or twenty. A

teaspoonful of the sirup, made according to the above formula, contains about ten grains of the bromide of iron. The dose, therefore, to start with, is half a teaspoonful, three times a day; increased gradually, till at the end of three or four months, the patient is taking a teaspoonful and a half or two teaspoonfuls of the medicine. With each dose of the bromide of iron, the fluid-extract of ergot should be given separately, and like it, should be increased from ten drops, three times a day, to a drachm as often. The two medicines cannot be kept mixed together for any length of time without the bromide of iron being decomposed, and the ergot also injured.

In the nocturnal incontinence of urine, occurring in adults, the principles of treatment should be similar; but instead of the bromide of zinc, the bromide of either potassium, sodium, or calcium should be employed.

DIGITALIS AND ACETATE OF POTASH IN DROPSICAL-EFFUSION.

Dr. Barr says there is one therapeutical agent that I have frequently thought I would like to bring to the notice of the profession, which I have used for a certain purpose, with unvarying success, and with great satisfaction to myself, and to the delight of my patients. From conversations I have had with other practitioners, I am confident there are many who will read this, who, upon trial of the remedy, will thank me for bringing it to their notice, although to others it may be nothing new—I allude to a combination of the infusion of digitalis with acetate of potassa, in dropsical-effusion, as follows:

R. Infus-digitalis.....4 ounces.
Potass.-acet.....½ ounce.

M. Dose, one or two teaspoonfuls every two hours.

Formerly, or until I met with, and used, this prescription, there was no class of "ills that flesh is heir to," the treatment of which was more unsatisfactory, and the result more uncertain, than the class of derangements under consideration. But now all is changed. When I am called to a dropsical case, and encounter the anxious and inquiring look of the patient, I can smile and speak hope to the troubled soul.—[*Transactions Pennsylvania Medical Society.*

BI-CARBONATE OF SODA IN THE SUPPRESSION OF URINE.

Dr. Lane states (*British Medical Journal*) that he has found nothing so useful in suppression of urine from renal disease, as the bi-carbonate of soda. He has used it in a great many cases, with success; and quotes the following remark of Dr. Dickinson, in his lectures on albuminuria, as confirmatory of his statement:

"But it is worth mention," says Dr. D., "in relation to a rapidly-fatal form of nephritis, in which the tubes become widely sealed up, as if with molten-glass, by a pseudo-cropous exudation of fibrin, while the urine is loaded, not only microscopically, but as a bulky precipitate, with large, fibrinous cylinders, that all plugging from this cause can be prevented by alkalies."

ERGOT AS A PREVENTIVE OF AFTER-PAINS.

Dr. LeDiberder remarks that, in order to prevent after-pains, he is in the habit of giving ergot, directly after the expulsion of the placenta, with the object of bringing about a firm and persistent contraction of the uterus, in lieu of those alternate relaxations and contractions by which after-pains are produced. He orders a 2-ounce mixture, containing 30 grains of freshly-powdered ergot, of which he directs a tablespoonful every ten minutes, until the whole has been taken.—[*Annales de Gynecologie.*

[For the Brief.]

A PLEASANT PURGATIVE.

The following will be found to be a pleasant and efficacious purgative:

R. Senna	½	ounce.
Manna	2	ounces.
Cardamon-seed	2	drachms.
Aqua	1	pint.

Infuse for half an hour in boiling-water, filter, and add juice of one orange.

Dose, a wineglassful every three hours, until it acts.

DON ROY, M. D.

LIQUOR-POTASSÆ IN CHLOROSIS.

Professor A. P. Reid records a case in the Canada *Medical Record*, illustrative of the value of liquor-potassæ in the treatment of chlorosis: The patient, aged 24, suffered from nervous debility, amenorrhœa, anæmia, venous-hum, anæmic-cardiac-murmur, and general anasarca, which stimulated the last stage of Bright's disease; but there was no organic disease. Liquor-potassæ, ten-minim doses, in mucilage, were given three times a day, and on the second day the swelling of the legs was less. After two weeks of this treatment, the anasarca had quite disappeared, and the patient could sit up. The medicine was continued with for a week longer; and after five weeks the patient left the hospital quite restored, the only other means used being milk and nourishing diet. The professor suggests that, as in chlorosis there is retention of the masses of an excrementitious blood, which debilitates, if it does not poison, the assimilating properties of the tissues, therefore, an agent like liquor-potassæ, stimulates excretion, and is the best medicine. Since then he has treated several similar cases, on the same plan, and invariably with success. No other medication is employed, except an occasional laxative is required.

INTUSSUSCEPTION.

Dr. Guthrie thus speaks of his treatment in a case of intussusception: "I had gone prepared with an old-fashioned fire-bellows, to try inflation, as determined upon at the consultation. I took the pipe of an ordinary Mattson's-syringe, with the rubber-attachment, drawing the end of the rubber-tube over the nozzle of the bellows, and introducing the syringe-pipe into the rectum. With this, I inflated the bowel, forcing in the air until the abdomen was considerably distended, the child screaming with pain. Suddenly, there was a gurgling sound, and a copious discharge of dark-green, or black fecal-matter into the bed. The child was placed on a commode, and passed still more of the same kind of material. From this time, the pain and vomiting ceased, and the child's condition became comfortable; the bowels moved naturally on Friday and Saturday; the appetite became good, and she is now as well as ever.—[*Transactions Pennsylvania Medical Society.*

DR. LAWRENCE, EDITOR MEDICAL BRIEF—*Dear Sir:* On May 27, 1876, I was hurriedly summoned to see Mrs. Kate H., aged 24, married five years, no children, suffering, as I was told, from a violent attack of cramps. Upon examining the case, I pronounced it neuralgia of the womb, and prescribed accordingly. I sent for her regular physician, who soon arrived, and he told me that she had been a great sufferer for three years, the attack being of frequent occurrence. She had previously been under the treatment of two physicians, without being relieved, and for the past two years she had been a regular patient of his; he had used tents, pessaries, injections, sent her to the sea, etc.; but, like her former attendants, failed to relieve her of what we supposed to be chronic-neuralgia of the womb. October 23d, I was again hastily called to see her, and found her in great agony; she was lying on her bed, with her knees drawn nearly to her chin. I watched her movements closely for a few minutes, and decided to examine her. I passed my finger into her womb, but could detect nothing wrong. I then passed it up the rectum, and with the tip end of my finger, felt a hard substance, though too high up to ascertain what it was. I used a long pair of forceps, and with some difficulty, removed a stubby shawl-pin, about an inch and-a-half long. On the sixth day afterward, opened a large anal-abscess, which discharged freely. She now appears perfectly well. She has no recollection of having swallowed the pin. During her three years' suffering she miscarried twice. A. TREGO SHERTZER, M. D.

BALTIMORE, November 15, 1876.

FOR ECZEMA.

R. Plumbi-acetatis	10 grains.
Hydrarg.-chlor.-mitis	10 grains.
Zinc-oxidi	20 grains.
Ung.-hydrarg.-nitratis	20 grains.
Adipis	20 grains.
Olei-palm	20 grains.

Make an ointment. Used in the London Hospitals.

DIPHTHERIA.

Very flattering success has attended the use of a mixture of salicylic-acid, two parts, to lime-water, two hundred parts. The throat is touched or gargled frequently with this.

CREOSOTE AND IODINE IN ULCERATION OF THE UTERUS.

This preparation was first made by Dr. Atkinson (dentist), of New York City, and used in diseases of the mucous-membrane of the mouth, by him and other dentists.

The results were invariably good. It occurred to me that if good in diseases of the mouth, why not in diseases of the mucous surfaces of the uterus? I have been using this remedy, in cases of ulceration of the mouth of the uterus, with the very best of results.

The medicine is made by taking about 1 ounce of creosote and saturating it with crystals of iodine. My mode of application is: First, To remove any mucous which may cover the ulcerated part, then wrap a small portion of cotton around the end of a probe, saturate the same with the medicine, and apply directly to the ulcerated surface. After a minute or so, I apply a small portion of olive-oil over the surface, and withdraw the speculum. Once a week is often enough to apply the treatment. No pain is produced by the medicine.

J. H. KULP, M. D.

DAVENPORT, IA., November 13, 1876.

PRUSSIC-ACID IN COUGH.

On this point, Mr. W. H. Griffith says, in the *Medical Press and Circular:*

Prussic-acid has been highly extolled as a remedy in whooping-cough, and Dr. E. P. Atlee states that he has effected a cure with it in over two hundred cases, in from four to ten days, or at furthest, within a fortnight. According to the experience of Hayward, Richter, and others, it is chiefly useful in the latter stages of this affection. Dr. West finds that it acts most beneficially in cases in which the paroxysmal character is well marked. Unquestionably in some cases it acts with marvelous efficacy, whilst in others it appears to act injuriously. The writer is, therefore, driven to the conclusion that there is some, as yet, unknown condition which regulates the efficacy of prussic-acid in whooping-cough. The following is Dr. West's formula:

R. Acidi-hydrocyanici, dil..... 4 drops.
Soda-carb..... 10 grains.
Mist.-amygdalæ..... 1 drachm.

A teaspoonful every sixth hour for a child nine months old. We may here mention that the administration of prussic-acid to young children calls for the greatest caution.

It is widely admitted that in simple nervous cough, independent of any pulmonary affection, no other medicine is superior to hydrocyanic-acid. In chronic lung diseases, and in phthisis, prussic-acid may be useful in allaying cough; but in other respects, it must be regarded as by no means possessing the curative powers attributed to it by Brugnatelli, Granville, Magendie, and others. It was at one time regarded as a specific for acute inflammation of the lungs, an opinion held by few therapeutists of the present day. In laryngismus-stridulus, prussic-acid has been employed advantageously by Dr. Reid; and Dr. Thompson regards it as almost a specific in phthisis-trachialis. Many writers approve of it as a remedy in spasmodic-asthma, and also angina-pectoris.

THE EFFECTS OF STRYCHNIA ON THE HEALTHY AND THE DISEASED EYE.

BY DR. HIPPEL.

The experiments of the author, made upon himself, had, for an end, the knowledge whether strychnia produced an augmentation of visual sensibility, and whether it developed any subjective visual phenomena of light and color. Strychnia was administered by subcutaneous injections, six of which were made in the temporal region, and one in the forearm. The doses varied from two to four milligrammes; and the phenomena observed were as follows:

1. Augmentation of the peripheral sensibility to the color blue.
2. Temporary increase of the visual power.
3. A clearer perception of peripheral points.
4. Durable enlargement of the visual field.

The result of the author's experiments on the diseased eye is, that strychnia produces, on the optic-nerve, the same effects as those attributed to the constant electric current on the other nerves. Strychnia may still have a very powerful effect on the atrophied optic-nerve, even in cases where other means are inefficacious.—[*Gaz. Med. Ital. Lombard.*

SUBNITRATE OF BISMUTH IN THE INTESTINAL-HEMORRHAGES OF TYPHOID-FEVER.

In the intestinal-hemorrhages which supervene in the course of typhoid-fever, Dr. Martineau recommends, on account of its perfect harmlessness, subnitrate of bismuth. He administers this remedy every half hour, until the cessation of the hemorrhage, in powders containing one gramme (fifteen grains). This method is derived from the practice of Monneret, who, considering that bismuth acted specially as a mechanical agent, so to speak, covering the inflamed and ulcerated mucous surfaces, always employed it, in preference to giving half-doses. In five patients, whom Dr. Martineau has thus treated, the result has been well and rapidly attained.—[*Gaz. des Hop.*

ESMARCH'S METHOD SIMPLIFIED.

Dr. David Little advises the application of the common roller-bandage to a limb, from the distal extremity upward, elastic tubing to be applied above; when the roller is removed, the operation is found to be *absolutely bloodless*. He says that if the ordinary bandage is tightly and evenly applied, it would seem to have the preference over the elastic bandage as being more likely to force, and keep out, the blood from the compressed limb, simply because it is non-elastic and unyielding. It is also always at hand, and easily applied.—[*Journal Medical Science.*

SALICYLIC-ACID MIXTURES.

Mr. A. Cassan recommends, in the *Repertoire de Pharmacie*, the following formula:

Salicylic-acid	1 drachm.
Citrate of ammonia	30 grains.
Brandy	1 ounce.
Water	5 ounces.

The addition of citrate of ammonia is claimed to affect in no way the action of the acid, and to give no unpleasant taste to the solution. The citrate is made extemporaneously by saturating citric-acid with ammonia.

THE USE OF CONIUM.

Dr. A. M. Hamilton says, that in the treatment of diseases, where tremor is a symptom, much benefit has followed the use of conium, at the Female Epileptic and Paralytic Hospital, on Blackwell's Island. In two cases of chorea, of long standing, it produced a prompt amelioration of the patients' condition, and in the tremor of sclerosis, it suppressed the movements for several weeks. It was given in the form of fluid-extract, in doses of 10 drops, three times a day.

AN EMMENAGOGUE-PILL.

The formula for which is given in the *Union Medicale*, may be made as follows:

R. Aloes ..... 15 grains.
Rue ..... 7½ grains.
Saffron ..... 7½ grains.
Savin ..... 7½ grains.

M. Divide into 10 pills, one of which is to be taken morning and evening, commencing two or three days before the supposed menstrual-epoch. It is desirable to employ, in connection with the pills, warm-hip-baths, dry cups to the lumbar regions, leeches to the upper and inner portion of the thighs, and walking exercise; also give in the menstrual intervals, iron and quinia.

TOOTHACHE-REMEDY.

Mr. C. A. Guild writes to *The Clinic* as follows: "I have found collodion, mixed with enough carbolic-acid to form a jelly-like mass (about equal parts are necessary), an excellent remedy for toothache. Take it on the end of a pine stick, and place it in the cavity of the tooth. The pain will be relieved almost instantly, if it depends on an exposed nerve. It is the most reliable and convenient remedy I ever tried."

ASTHMA.

R. Camphor-water ..... 8 ounces.
Bromide of potassium ..... ½ ounce.
Bromide of ammonium ..... ½ ounce.
Tincture of lobelia ..... 1 ounce.
Tincture of stramonium ..... 1 ounce.

Mix. Dose, a teaspoonful every three hours.

THE TREATMENT OF DIPHTHERIA.

Dr. Nowlin, of Rome, Ga., gives (in *Medical and Surgical Reporter*) the following as his treatment of diphtheria, with the result of recovery in every instance:

R. Alcohol, or any strong spirits.....6 ounces.
Spirits-lav.-comp.....1 ounce.
Spirits-ammon.-aromat.....1 ounce. M.

Sig. From a teaspoonful to two tablespoonfuls, according to the age of the patient, and repeat in four, two, or one hour, according to the grade of the disease and urgency of the symptoms, continuing night as well as day, till the improvement of the symptoms will permit longer intervals.

R. Saturated solution of potass.-chlorat.....4 ounces.
Tannic-acid.....2 drachms. M.

Sig. Use several times a day, by means of a mop, or as a gargle, to remove from the throat the morbid deposit, as it loosens, under the dissolving influence of the use of the first prescription. The mop should be large, and introduced, well saturated with the mixture, between the tonsils, to the posterior wall of the pharynx, and gently rotated.

He also indorses the doctrine of Dr. Yeates that, in the treatment of diphtheria, "more dependence should be placed in the general than in the local treatment, and that the general treatment should be stimulating, in the full sense of that term."

He also says: "I have been struck with the fact that the most successful plans of treatment reported have been the most strictly and energetically stimulating and nutritive. To effect a cure, the blood-poison must be neutralized, or the system supported until it is eliminated. I have seen death take place after the throat-disease appeared to be cured, and no traces of it to be seen."

CALABAR-BEAN AS A GALACTAGOGUE.

In the *British Medical Journal*, Dr. W. Monro remarks that he has already brought before the profession various uses to which calabar-bean might be put, from its power of dilating the peripheral blood-vessels. Wishing recently to restore the secretion of milk, after it had disappeared from the breast for about three days, he had prepared an ointment of the strength of twenty grains of the bean to the ounce, and ordered it to be applied, and washed off carefully before the baby was allowed to suck. After two applications, the baby, not having been put to the breast in the meanwhile, the milk returned in full flow.

RHUS-POISONING.

Dr. James says, in *New Remedies:* "I am one of those unfortunates who cannot come in contact with the rhus-vine without suffering, and as our woods are full of it, I am not infrequently poisoned. For years, I tried first one remedy and then another, with more or less (generally the latter) success; but, occasionally, when I would get a "good dose" of it in the spring, nothing seemed to give me any relief. Finally, on applying some litmus-paper to the pustules one day, I noticed that the serous-fluid which escaped was intensely acid—instantaneously reddening the litmus wherever it came in contact with it. On this hint I acted. Having some bi-carbonate of soda on my wash-stand, I rubbed a little of it on the pustules, and met with almost immediate relief. A second application completed the cure. Since then, whenever I discover that I have come in contact with the poison, I simply rub the parts with dry bi-carbonate of soda. Since its success in my own case, I have frequently prescribed it to my patients similarly afflicted, and with almost unvarying success. I say *almost*, for I have met with one case, and one only, which did not yield to it immediately, and this one was benefited by it. It affords prompt relief to the burning and itching which are such prominent and distressing symptoms in this singular affection.

EDITOR BRIEF: I have found the following very useful in all inflammatory affections of the throat, and especially scarlatina:

Potass.-chlorate	2 drachms.
Acid-carbolic	10 grains.
Glycerine	1 ounce.
Aqua	3 ounces.

M. Sig. As gargle *ad lib.*

TRINITY SPRINGS, IND., Nov. 17. W. N. SHERMAN, M. D.

[For the Brief.]

AN EXCELLENT OINTMENT FOR HEMORRHOIDS (EXTERNAL.)

R. Opium-pulverized	40 grains.
Plumbi-acetatis	30 grains.
Acid-tannic	20 grains.
Nut-galls, pulverized	2 drachms.
Unguentum-simple	1 ounce.

M. Fiat-unguentum. S. Apply a small portion at night.

L. G. DOANE, M. D.

OPIUM AS AN ANTIDOTE TO GELSEMINUM.

Dr. Courtright says, in Cincinnati *Lancet:* As there are no well-recognized antidotes from an overdose of gelseminum laid down in *any work* on *materia-medica* that I have seen, and no mention made of *opium* or its preparations as an *antidote* for gelseminum-poisoning, and as the use of *morphia* hypodermically proved so *successful* in this case, and we have the testimony of an intelligent physician, that he felt better after commencing its use, when he thought he was beyond help—

I now not only offer it as an antidote for gelseminum-poisoning, but give it to the profession as one that can be relied on as confidently as in that of poisoning by belladonna.

DIVING AND SWIMMING AS A CAUSE OF AURAL DISEASE.

Dr. Turnbul says he considers swimming and diving in cold water an important and frequent cause of disease of the auditory-canal and anterior-surface of the membrana-tympani, also of the middle-ear.

The evils attending bathing and swimming in cold water are the entrance of this cold fluid, not only into the external meatus, but as far as the membrana-tympani, causing inflammation of the lower portion of the auditory-canal, also the anterior-surface of the membrana-tympani. But the greater evil is sudden deglutition during diving or swimming. While the mouth, nose and pharynx are filled with cold water, the mouths of the Eustachian-tubes open by the cold, and a portion of the water passes into the middle-ear. This result rarely occurs to expert swimmers or divers, but is most apt to occur in young beginners, who suddenly, from cold, or the shock of the contact of the water, breathe or swallow in a sobbing manner. Yet we have known it to occur in old and experienced swimmers, owing to the intense coldness of the water, while plunging head foremost into the water, the act of deglutition being entirely involuntary. If the water is not removed, by placing the head on one side, and drawing the external ear forcibly outward, shaking the head at the same time, and opening the mouth, it will cause inflammation, with the formation of pus, followed by perforation of the membrana-tympani; or, being neglected, it passes backward by the cochlea and labyrinth to the brain, and may terminate in death.

It is a well-recognized fact among those who devote special attention to diseases of the ear, that no cold fluid should be allowed to enter even to the external auditory-canal; still, this important fact is not well recognized by the medical profession at large, or by the laity.

In the case of warm water, its entrance into the ear is less objectionable; but even then it is not quite free from danger, and has its disadvantages, and should in all cases have a few grains of a saline body, like borax, soda, or common salt, when employed in washing out the ear.

[For the Brief.]

AT the conclusion of a report of a successful case of ovariotomy, reported by me, page 219, July number *American Jour. Med. Sciences*, I stated that the patient, after four successive menstrual-hemorrhages from the unclosed lower angle of the incision, declared herself well. Nine months after the operation, I was consulted in regard to a tender spot at the original point of the monthly-bleedings. I opened the pouched and inflamed tissues, and extracted from the cavity the *Chinese silk ligature*, by which I originally had tied the pedicle of the tumor on its removal. This ligature was almost intact; the fibres and twist of the (whip-cord) threads were distinct; at one place, only the thread seemed absorbed, or looked as though it had been filed or gnawed nearly in two. The last wound healed kindly; and the patient is now entirely well, and has gained thirty-five pounds in weight since date of first operation, November 9th, 1875. JAMES P. ORR, M. D.

ANDERSONVILLE, FRANKLIN CO., IND., Nov. 15th, 1876.

[For the Brief.]

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., Nov. 10, 1876.

Editor Medical Brief:

DEAR SIR: About fifteen days ago, a pregnant lady applied to me for something to cure or relieve sick-stomach. For ten days, I tried everything I could think of, without giving relief; at last, I cut the end of a *lemon*, stuffed it with fine sugar, and gave it to the patient to suck. *It gave immediate relief;* and she has had no return of the sick-stomach since.

Yours truly, E. M. BALDWIN, M. D.

IODINE IN POST-PARTUM HEMORRHAGE.

BY Z. B. HERNDON, M. D., RICHMOND, VA.

On July 2d, 1876, Mrs. C., aged 19 years, was delivered of a dead child, after a tedious labor, during which her strength kept up until an hour or two before issue. Soon after removing the placenta, she swooned away, in consequence of immense loss of blood. Ergot was given in large doses by the mouth, and injected subcutaneously. Ice was used externally and internally. The hand was carried into the womb, in the hope of producing contraction upon a large body. All of these measures failed to overcome the inertia; and from 10 P. M. until 2 A. M., when my syringe arrived, I had worked without seeing any benefit. The long nozzle of the instrument was carried to the fundus-uteri, and six drachms tincture of iodine was injected. In an incredibly short space of time, the uterus contracted firmly and permanently. For fourteen hours, the patient remained in a state of collapse, though French brandy had been given *ad libitum*. Stimulants, with nourishment, after 48 hours, gave promise of a favorable result. Besides some tympanitis, with a moderate amount of soreness, no symptom of interest occurred; and, after three weeks, the patient left her bed, and in five weeks, went to the country for the summer.

Some six months before this, Mrs. J., æt. 35, a feeble lady, who had been under treatment for consumption for five years, gave birth to her eighth child. She soon sunk under profuse-flooding. The usual remedies were resorted to, while a messenger went for my syringe. In half an hour, the iodine was introduced, and the trouble ended.—[*Va. Med. Monthly.*

THE following is a favorite formula with English practitioners in anæmia, accompanied by constipation; divide into thirty pills, one to four a day:

R. Ferri-redacti	1	drachm.	
Canellæ-pulveris	½	drachm.	
Aloes-socotrinæ	7	grains.	
Extracti-taraxaci	q. s.		M.

GELSEMINUM FOR DILATION OF CERVIX-UTERI.

Dr. Agnew says, in *Va. Medical Monthly:* The first patient upon whom I tried gelseminum had retroflexion of the uterus. The cervix was small and conical; the os was at the apex of the cone, and was so nearly closed that I could not introduce the smallest laminaria-tent. I had two conical bougies made by an ingenious blacksmith in our village—the little end of the smaller bougie being not larger than a knitting-kneedle. Even this small instrument could not be introduced.

While sheathing a bistoury for the purpose of incising the lips of the external os-uteri, the influence of gelseminum over sphincteric action occurred to me, and I determined at once to try it. I gave ten drops of the fl.-ext. of gelseminum every ten minutes until thirty drops had been taken. Immediately after the last dose, without the slightest difficulty, I passed successfully the bougies, and a No. 1 sponge, up to the point of flexion. On the fourth day thereafter, I failed in every effort to introduce a No. 2 sponge-tent until the fluid-extract of gelseminum had been given as before. After this was given, the tent was rapidly passed up to the point of flexion; and, to my great satisfaction, after a little manipulation, it passed this point, and there was no further trouble in the operation of dilation.

I have tried gelseminum in two other cases, with equal success.

IODIA.

BY J. A. FERRIS, A. M., M. D.

At the suggestion of a medical friend, I commenced to prescribe "IODIA," in May, 1876, since which time I have prescribed it largely. I find it to be a reliable alterative and a uterine regulator of great therapeutic value. Possessing the above combined properties, I regard it as the most valuable remedy we possess in the treatment of chronic womb-diseases, syphilis, scrofulous and skin-diseases. In my hands, it has gone through the ordeal of severe test, and now stands with me at the head of the list as a remedy in the treatment of various chronic-diseases. I am satisfied we have no agent as reliable as "IODIA" in the treatment of syphilis. It is in this disease especially that it shows its great superiority over all other remedies as an alterative; and it is surely, therefore, a great boon to the profession, in the treatment of that portion of suffering humanity who have been worsted in their miscellaneous fights in the wars of Venus. I will also mention here that it is worthy of a very high position as a tonic. It can also be successfully employed in all diseases in which iron is indicated. In consequence of its twofold action as an alterative and uterine regulator, it is especially useful in uterine-lesions—being, I think, the best remedy in all forms of leucorrhœa, and in some forms of amenorrhœa, ulcerations of the os-uteri, etc. I have found "IODIA" to be peculiarly valuable in all those cases of impaired health, where the complexion is muddy or pimpled, the skin dry, bowels constipated, or in other words, in all cases where the excretory organs at large need acting upon; indeed, when we come to think of it, it is not at all difficult to comprehend why an agent which gradually improves the general excretion, should also gradually improve the general health. For ladies, I generally prescribe it, combined with fluid.ext.-liquorice, as follows: R. "IODIA," 4 ounces; fld.-ext.-glycyrrh, 2 ounces; mix. Teaspoonful, four times a day. For male adults, I generally prescribed it alone. Dose, one to two teaspoonfuls, 3 or 4 times a day.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 7, 1877.

TO PHYSICIANS.

IODIA.

(TRADE MARK).

IODIA is the *Ideal* Alterative. Its wonderful efficacy in the cure of syphilis renders it an indispensable agent to every practitioner. As an anti-syphilitic, it certainly has no known rival. It seems, also, to be of equal value in the treatment of scrofula and obstinate skin-diseases. With its energetic alterative properties, it combines a tonic-power of great value. Thus, while it promotes secretion and depuration, it gives tone to the various organs engaged in the performance of these functions. By its influences, it regulates and quickens the activities of the eliminating-vessels, and promotes the processes of digestion, assimilation and nutrition. As iron, in the form of a phosphate, is one of its component parts, it will be at once seen that it is pre-eminently useful in anæmia, amenorrhœa, chlorosis, nervous debility, and in all cases, in which an alterative, ferruginous-tonic is needed In all derangements of the urinary apparatus, it is one of the best alterative diuretics that can be employed. As a uterine-tonic, there is probably no remedy so well worthy of the name, and none deserving of greater confidence, in the treatment of chronic-diseases of the uterus, and debility of the generative-organs; hence, it can be greatly relied on in the treatment of prolapsus-uteri, leucorrhœa, sterility, impotence, etc. Clinical experience demonstrates this remedy to be *invaluable* in chronic disorders of the liver, and peculiarly serviceable in the convalescing stages of fevers, where it is desirable to insure a regular and soluble condition of the bowels, without causing debility. Being gently aperient, and entirely devoid of irritant effects, there is no agent of equal value in constipation, and diseases in which an alterative hepatic-aperient is desired. Now, to sum up the therapeutic value of Iodia, it is believed to be *eminently superior to all other remedies*, as an alterative, tonic, diuretic and aperient, and hence, it is well worthy of the confidence of the profession, in the treatment of many forms of chronic-diseases.

"IODIA" AS AN ALTERATIVE.

HICKMAN, KY., Oct. 29th, 1877.

Messrs. Battle & Co., St. Louis, Mo.—GENTLEMEN: I take pleasure in saying, that in forty-two years' practice of medicine, I have never found anything equal to "IODIA" *as an Alterative.* I have used it for some time in obstinate cases of scrofula and ulcerated diseases of broken-down constitutions. In leucorrhea, it has proved *par excellent.* Respectfully yours,

H. C. CATLETT, M. D.

CHICAGO, ILLS., Dec. 14th, 1876.

Messrs. Battle & Co., St. Louis, Mo.

GENTLEMEN:

My experience with "IODIA" is getting to be quite extensive; but I can only hope in this communication to summarize my experience with it, by saying. that I have used it *until I am satisfied* that, in all stages of syphilis and scrofula, and in all pustular diseases, dependent upon a vitiated condition of the blood, *it has no equal.* Did time and space permit, I could give you special cases in which its action was simply astonishing. One case of scrofula—*the worst I ever saw*, of ten years' standing, during eight years of which it had treatment by the best physicians here and elsewhere, with only very temporary benefit—is yielding rapidly, after less than three months' use of it. This case is really a great marvel, for one can hardly conceive of a *living* being in its condition. I have also used "IODIA" with marked benefit in uterine disease, irritable uterus and chlorosis. I regard it with me as much a *standard remedy* as opium or quinia. I see in it the best road away from the abuses of mercury; and the quicker the profession know it, the better for the people. Yours truly,

CHAS. E. DAVIS, M. D.,
60 N. Clark Street.

TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

IODIA.

(TRADE MARK.)

Alterative, Tonic, Diuretic and Aperient.

FORMULA.—Iodia is a combination of Active Principles obtained from the Green Roots of STILLINGIA, HELONIAS, SAXIFRAGA, Menispermum and Aromatics. Each *fluid* drachm also contains *five* grs. IOD-POTAS, and *three* grs. PHOS-IRON. *DOSE*—One or two *fluid* drachms (more or less as indicated) *three* times a day, before meals.

This preparation has been LARGELY PRESCRIBED, *and has now an established Reputation as being the* BEST ALTERATIVE *yet introduced to the notice of the Profession; and hence, is* INDISPENSABLE *in the* SUCCESSFUL *treatment of many forms of Chronic Disease.*

"My experience leads me to say that IODIA is the most reliable remedy we possess in the treatment of depraved conditions of the blood-making functions and obstinate forms of Syphilis." G. W. THOMAS, M. D.

"I believe IODIA to be par excellence the remedy above all others in the treatment of Syphilis." W. M. WOOD, M. D.

"I regard IODIA as the best Alterative in Syphilis and chronic blood diseases." H. E. MORGAN, M. D.

"I cordially recommend IODIA to the profession as an efficient and satisfactory agent in Scrofula, Syphilis and skin diseases." R. H. THOMPSON, M. D.

"IODIA is, beyond all question, the best remedy I have ever used in Syphilis and Scrofula." A. P. WILSON, M. D.

"It (IODIA) is a remedy of *rare* value in *chronic womb diseases.*" W. W. SCOTT, M. D.

"Having used IODIA with success, I can commend it to the profession as a good alterative, specially in Syphilitic and Ulcerative diseases, broken-down constitutions, etc." J. H. JONES, M. D.

"In my experience, there is no agent that equals IODIA in *chronic uterine troubles.*" JNO. S. MAY, M. D.

"I consider it (IODIA) as superior to mercurial or Iodine preparations, in fact more reliable than any other alteratives in the treatment of Syphilis and syphilitic and other skin diseases." HENRY A. BLACK, M. D.

"I have prescribed IODIA with the most gratifying results in Leucorrhea, Gleet and other chronic diseases of the Urinary Passages." H. S. PALMER, M. D.

"As a Uterine Tonic and Alterative, it (IODIA) is a remedy of *the greatest value*; such, at least, is my experience with it. I can certainly bear testimony as to its efficiency in Chronic Uterine Diseases." WM. J. WARREN, M. D.

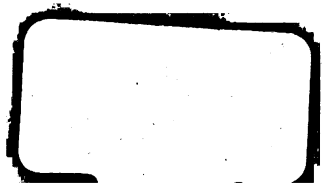
PREPARED ONLY BY

BATTLE & CO.,

CHEMISTS,

100 South Main St., ST. LOUIS, MO.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

As we prepare goods ONLY for the use of Physicians, our labels contain ONLY the name of the article and manufacturers address, thus: IODIA—Battle & Co., Chemists, St. Louis. NO DOSE, DIRECTIONS, FORMULA, OR OTHER PRINTED MATTER AROUND THE BOTTLE.

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